FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-126
Friday
28 June 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-126 *28 June 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Says New Arab Summit 'Very Likely' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Jun]* 1
Inter-Arab: Arab League Official Assails 'Intransigent' Israeli Policy *[Damascus Radio]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Addresses Motion of Confidence Session *[Jericho VOP]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: Radio Names Cabinet Members *[Jericho VOP]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Cables King Fahd, Clinton on Explosion *[Jericho VOP]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: PLF's 'Abbas Named Member of 'Higher' Negotiating Team *[AL-NAHAR 22 Jun]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: 'Asfur Sees Shift in Likud Stance on Peace Process *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 26 Jun]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: International Cooperation Minister on Ties With Israel *[Brussels LE SOIR 26 Jun]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Qaddumi Criticizes Arab Summit Results *[AL-NAHAR 26 Jun]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th Says Talks With EU Officials 'Very Successful' *[Jericho VOP]* ... 6
Palestinian Affairs: 750-Unit Housing Project Planned in West Bank, Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 6

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Netanyahu Political Adviser Meets 'Arafat in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Loan, Debt Rescheduling Accords Reached With IMF, Creditors *[Algiers TV]* 7

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak's 'Political Differences' With U.S. Said Reason for News Conference Cancellation *[IRNA]* 7
Egypt: 'Diplomatic Source' Remarks on Netanyahu's, U.S. Stance *[MENA]* 7
Egypt: Paper Criticizes 'Fabricated' U.S. 'Furor' Over Egypt's Missiles *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 27 Jun]* 7
Egypt: Weekly Claims Israel Ready To Build Reactor Near Border *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 24 Jun]* 8
Egypt: 'Sources' Say Israel-Turkey Accord Aimed Against Iran Threat *[Rome IL MESSAGGERO 28 Jun]* 8

Mauritania

Mauritania: Opposition Party Sacks Executives for 'Defamation Campaign' *[Libreville Radio]* 9

Morocco

Morocco: King Hassan Condemns Saudi Bomb Blast *[MAP]* 9

Sudan

Sudan: Al-Bashir, Other Officials Condemn Saudi Bombing *[Omdurman Radio]* 9

Sudan: Official Reports on Nationals Expelled From Libya, Yemen *[SUNA]* 9

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: President Comments on UN Voter-Identification Move *[Algiers Radio]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: Sentences Passed on Bombing Spree Defendants *[Al-Ayyam WWW]* 11

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: 'Hizbollah Gulf' Claims Responsibility for Blast *[London THE TIMES 28 Jun]* 11
Saudi Arabia: Authorities Identify 'Features' of 2 Bomb Suspects *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Jun]* 12
Saudi Arabia: Interior Ministry Offers Reward for Blast Information *[SPA]* 12
Saudi Arabia: Opposition Leader Expects Attacks on Non-U.S. Targets *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
Saudi Arabia: Bombing Reportedly 'Sparks Debate' About U.S. Presence *[London THE GUARDIAN 28 Jun]* 13
Saudi Arabia: Blast's Effect Said Limited by Nature of Saudi Economy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Jun]* 14
Saudi Arabia: Papers React to 'Terrorist Blast' *[SPA]* 14
Saudi Arabia: Arab Leaders Condemn 'Criminal Explosion' *[SPA]* 15

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Shaykh Zayid, Foreign Ministry Condemn al-[illegible] Explosion *[AL-ITTIHAD WWW]* 16

Yemen

Yemen: House Speaker Phones Saudi Prince Sultan, Condemns Blast *[Sanaa TV]* 17

IRAQ

Iraq: Radio—U.S. Should Seriously Consider Leaving Saudi Arabia *[Mother of Battles Radio]* 18
Iraq: U.S. 'Insistence' on Removing UN's Butrus-Ghali Assailed *[INA]* 18
Iraq: TV Observes Baghdad 1993 Raid Anniversary *[Baghdad TV]* 19

ISRAEL

Israel: Netanyahu Says Relationship With U.S. 'Unconditional' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Jun]* 20
Israel: Official To Raise DPRK Launchers to Egypt in Talks With CIA Chief *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jun]* 21
Israel: IAEC Denies Egyptian Report on Building of Third Reactor *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jun]* 21
Israel: Weizman, Egyptian Envoy Discuss Bilateral Relations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Israel: Levi — Israel Opposes Dictates; Egypt Should Avoid Pressure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Israel: IDF Sources Say Gunmen May Have Fled to PA's Jericho *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Jun]* 22
Israel: IDF Changes Orders on Opening Fire in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Israel: Air Force Commander Says Small Chance for War in Near Future *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Israel: Hebron Settlers Present Mordekhay With Memorandum on Views *[Hebron Today 26 Jun]* .. 23
Israel: Defense Minister Tours Hebron, Meets Mayor, Settlers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Israel: Hebron Evacuation Seen as 'Too Easy' Test for Netanyahu *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jun]* 24
Israel: POST Says Time To Expose Syria's 'Terrorist' Face *[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Jun]* 25
Israel: Netanyahu Advisers Hazoni, Gold Profiled *[THE JERUSALEM REPORT 11 Jul]* 26
Israel: Police 'Apparently' Recommend Filing Charges Against Eytan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Jun]* 28

Israel: Attorney General Clears Eytan of 'Blackmailing' Activist *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Israel: Poll Shows Majority Supports Netanyahu Meeting With 'Arafat *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Jun]* 28
Israel: SHAS Receives Religious Affairs Portfolio; NRP Protests *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: Netanyahu Discusses Economic 'Measures,' Budget Cuts *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jun]* 29
Israel: Ministers Pressuring Netanyahu To Drop Budget Cuts *[HA'ARETZ 28 Jun]* 29
Israel: International Pressure Behind Plan To Increase Foreign Aid *[GLOBES]* 30
Israel: Commentator Urges Voluntary Halt to U.S. Economic Aid *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Jun]* 30

JORDAN

Jordan: Prime Minister To Meet Syrian Counterpart 'End of July' *[THE STAR 27 Jun-3 Jul]* 32
Jordan: Columnist Criticizes Recent Bombing in Saudi Arabia *[AL-RA'Y 27 Jun]* 33
Jordan: TIMES Views Dhahran Bombing, Killing of 3 Israelis *[JORDAN TIMES 28 June]* 33
Jordan: Weekly Reports 'Heroic Operation' in Saudi Arabia *[AL-AHALI 27 Jun]* 34
Jordan: Columnist Views Link Between Suppression, Violence *[AL-RA'Y 27 Jun]* 34
Jordan: SHIHAN Reports on 'Clashes' With Israeli Patrol *[SHIHAN 25 Jul]* 35

LEBANON

Lebanon: Government Decides To Review New Electoral Law *[AFP]* 36
Lebanon: Opposition Calls For Dropping Draft Elections Law *[VOL]* 36
Lebanon: Council of Ministers Approves Draft Election Law *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Lebanon: Hizballah Official Vows Operations To Continue *[IRNA]* 36

SYRIA

Syria: Al-Asad Calls Saudi Crown Prince To Condemn Explosion *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Syria: Al-Intifadah Statement Claims Attack on Israeli Soldiers *[AFP]* 38
Syria: Information Minister Blames 'Zionism' for Explosions *[AFP]* 38
Syria: Press Assails Israeli Prime Minister's Statements, Position *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Syria: Radio Urges World To Pressure Israel Over Peace Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Syria: Deputy Premier on Economic Effects of Peace *[London AL-WASAT 24-30 Jun]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Praises Iranian Efforts To Restore Peace *[IRNA]* 42
Afghanistan: Khales Hails Alliance, Says Conference 'Waste of Time' *[Message of Freedom]* 42
Afghanistan: Iran's Borujerdi Meets With Afghan President *[IRNA]* 42
Afghanistan: Iranian Official Praises Rabbani-Hekmatyar Agreement *[IRNA]* 42
Afghanistan: Pakistan Prime Minister Bhutto Congratulates Hekmatyar *[Tehran International]* 43

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Leaders of 1975 Coup on Diplomatic Jobs Ordered Home *[AFP]* 43

India

India: Gujral Says India's CTBT Stand Not To Affect U.S. Ties *[THE TELGRAPH 26 Jun]* .. 43
India: Envoy Rescinds India's Atomic Test Monitoring Offer for CTBT *[Delhi Radio]* 44
India: Official—Pakistan's Opening Trade Route Raises 'Suspicion' *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 24 Jun]* 44

Iran

Iran: Velayati Denies Iranian Involvement in Saudi Bombing *[IRNA]* 45

Iran: Commentary—Dhahran Blast Impossible Without Saudi Role *[Tehran International]* 45
Iran: Ambassador to Lebanon Denies Links to Dhahran Blast *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Iran: Yazdi Says Sanctions Damage U.S. Interests *[IRNA]* 46
Iran: Yazdi Refutes U.S. Allegation of Terrorism *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Iran: Official Says Clinton Stance 'Not New' *[Tehran TV]* 47
Iran: Paper Gives Reply to Clinton on 'Offer' of Talks *[IRAN NEWS 24 Jun]* 49
Iran: Ayatollah Yazdi Explains Stance on UN Rulings *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Iran: Commentary Attacks British Support for Opposition, Bahrain *[RESALAT 22 Jun]* 50
Iran: Daily Criticizes 'Extravagent' Behavior at Cairo Summit *[IRNA]* 51
Iran: Arabs Urged To Take Further Action in Wake of Cairo Summit *[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Jun]* 52
Iran: Official Views U.S. Attempts To Mediate in Afghanistan *[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Jun]* 52
Iran: Commentary Sees New Afghan Government as Having Scope *[Tehran International]* ... 53
Iran: Turkish Rocket Attack Kills 6, Injures 15 in Border Areas *[Tehran TV]* 54
Iran: Kurds Attack Turkish Consulate in Orumiyeh, Burn Flags *[ANATOLIA]* 54
Iran: Paper—Pact With Israel Will Not Solve Turkey's Problems *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 24 Jun]* 54
Iran: Egypt-Sudan Relations, 'Belated' Arab Summit Discussed *[SALAM 17 Jun]* 55
Iran: Official on World Bank-Iranian Relations *[RESALAT 11 Jun]* 56

Pakistan

Pakistan: Leghari States Nation 'Will Not Accept' Pressure To Sign CTBT *[Islamabad TV]* .. 59
Pakistan: Islamabad Comments on Indian 'Procrastination' To Sign CTBT *[Islamabad TV]* ... 59
Pakistan: Foreign Minister Views Islamabad's Stand on CTBT *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Pakistan: Foreign Secretary for 'Zero Missile Zone' in South Asia *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Pakistan: Envoy to U.S. Reaffirms Support for Intra-Afghan Dialogue *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Pakistan: Bhutto Promises To Deal With Terrorists With 'Iron Hand' *[Islamabad Radio]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Says New Arab Summit 'Very Likely'

MM2706132896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab and Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo: "New Summit Likely if Negotiations Face Complications; Christopher's Visit Shows United States Wants Peace Process To Succeed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that "Arab leaders could again hold an extraordinary summit, if the peace process in the region faces complications." 'Abd-al-Majid told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the summit delegated Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to hold contacts for that purpose, and said that an extraordinary summit "is very likely."

He said that as the next summit's date and place were not officially discussed during the meetings, President Mubarak was delegated to finalize those matters, after the issue was discussed at the meetings. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu must realize that "peace for peace [as opposed to land for peace] cannot be achieved and is totally unacceptable."

The secretary general said that "at the Cairo summit, the Arab states made a move, expressed their position with moderation and confidence, and conveyed their message, a message of peace rather than surrender, a message from people claiming their rights based on the Madrid terms of reference and the need to implement the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle."

'Abd-al-Majid said that he welcomes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region which started yesterday, and said that "it shows U.S. interest in the peace process, which we welcome and encourage. The U.S. role has been a key role in the peace process since the Madrid conference, which gives it its legal and political terms of reference."

He described the European summit's statement on the Middle East as an "excellent statement, confirming to the Arabs that they have friends in Europe." He said that "Israel's delegation to the Madrid conference included the current Israeli prime minister, so on what basis can he unilaterally change the terms of reference of the Madrid conference?"

He added that "there is an agreement which should be binding on both sides." On the Arab states' differences of opinion with regard to Netanyahu's policy, and in particular the Jordanian point of view, 'Abd-al-Majid said that "at this summit, the Arab states have defined their goals for the first time," adding that "search methods cannot be at odds with the principal objective, namely to achieve a comprehensive and just peace rather than a lame peace. So far, this peace has not been achieved. There is peace with Egypt and Jordan and partial peace with the Palestinians, [but] we also want peace with Syria and Lebanon."

He said that "the fact that some methods are more open or more conservative should not affect the Arab position, because those states which have a different point of view approved the substance of the closing statement. It is enough that Jordan approved the part concerning dealings with Israel. This in itself is very significant and is a message to Israel."

He stressed that "Arabs will not accept Netanyahu's three no's intended for his election rhetoric. He is now the prime minister and has responsibilities and commitments. When he says peace for peace, I will say to him that this is unacceptable, even to the states with which he has relations." He said that the Cairo summit "settled the issue and sent this strong message on peace to Israel."

On the role of the Arab League and the conference chairman in avoiding leaving any issues unresolved after the summit, 'Abd-al-Majid said: "There will not be any unresolved issues. The Arab League has been charged with some tasks which we will perform in conjunction with the conference chairman." He said that among the tasks entrusted to the Arab League are those of charging the foreign ministers with finalizing formulas for setting up the Arab court of justice, drawing up an Arab code of honor for Arab security and cooperation, and establishing an Arab League mechanism for protection from disputes and for their settlement among Arab states. He said: "There are several tasks which we will try to perform."

On the possibility that Iraq might participate in the next summit, the secretary general said that "this depends on Iraq and the way it acts in the future. It must rectify its errors." He added that "The Arab League will try to help raise the issues of Kuwaiti prisoners and compensation, and I have informed [Kuwaiti Prime Minister] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah of that."

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that "the summit came at the right time and was successful because it picked the [right] timing and style. The participation of 14 heads of states is the best indication of the summit's success, and the fact that it was held has confounded all doubts that the Arabs can agree."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said that "the summit has shown that the Arab states can stand united." He said that the summit "helped very much to raise morale and boost self-confidence after the frustration that had prevailed. The summit has also shown that people are rallying round the Arab League, which represents Arab identity which must be supported and preserved."

He explained that the Arab leaders went a long way in their support for the Arab League during the summit and stressed that "financial commitments must be respected and discharged" and that the summit "approved issues which were pending, such as the court of justice, the Arab code of honor, and the mechanism for settling disputes."

On whether the summit succeeded in making any headway on Arab reconciliation, 'Abd-al-Majid said: "We will not pretend that disagreements do not exist. We will, however, deal with them through the Arab court of justice."

He said that "the summit impressed not only the Arab world, but also the whole world. We had to get back on the right track, and this was achieved thanks to the summit. The skeptics will find that we do not disagree. The Cairo summit began in a new atmosphere, after an absence of several years."

'Abd-al-Majid added that "the fact that there are [different] methods for searching for peace does not mean that there is opposition to the key objective, namely to achieve a comprehensive and just peace."

With regard to Arab reconciliation, he stressed that the atmosphere during the Cairo summit and its meetings reflected the leaders' sense of responsibility and a high level of civilized debate. All leaders made a positive contribution. He said: "There were no disagreements in the summit's corridors. Fortunately, President Mubarak was able to bring all the leaders together, and the summit started in a very good atmosphere."

'Abd-al-Majid explained that the tripartite summit between the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria in December 1994 helped a great deal to pave the way for the Cairo summit, which ended its proceedings last Sunday [23 June], because the Alexandria summit represented a qualitative move in Arab relations, and was seen as the point of reference. He also said that the Cairo summit came at a time when a move was needed, adding that the meetings between the Arab leaders between whom there are disagreements should be seen as an indication, particularly within the context of joint Arab action, of defining relations, and of what can be achieved through Arab cooperation, because opposed interests remain within a narrow context, whereas the wider context is the convergence of pan-Arab interests. He explained that "Arabs must feel confident because they are claiming their rights."

Inter-Arab: Arab League Official Assails 'Intransigent' Israeli Policy

JN2706181396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Arab League has criticized the continuation of the intransigent Israeli policy toward the peace process on the Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese tracks, as confirmed by the Netanyahu government in the wake of the recent meeting Netanyahu held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, assistant Arab League secretary general for political affairs, said that this intransigence means that Israel is trying to torpedo all that has been accomplished since the convening of the Madrid conference, and to forestall any future accomplishments. Al-'Allaf added that the new Israeli policy could nullify the possibility of achieving peace in the region.

Al-'Allaf wondered: How can there be peace when the Israeli occupation of Arab territories is perpetuated? How can peace be established or sustained when the Netanyahu government declares its refusal to withdraw from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and Jerusalem, as well as its determination to press ahead with its settlement policy?

Al-'Allaf said: All this confirms that the Israeli Government is not pursuing any peace agreement with the Arabs, and that it is only trying to sabotage the peace process. He wondered: Where will the Israeli policy, which is threatening to torpedo the U.S.-sponsored peace process, get the region?

Al-'Allaf added: If the U.S. cosponsor still supports and backs the bases of the peace process, the Madrid formula, UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle as the only way to achieve peace, how can this be reconciled to the statements Netanyahu made on peace and noncompliance with the Madrid formula?

Al-'Allaf emphasized that all Arab states must take the measures they deem fit to safeguard pan-Arab security and stability if the Israeli intransigence is maintained.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Addresses Motion of Confidence Session

JN2706151596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a session attended by President Yasir 'Arafat at the al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza today, the Legislative Council passed a vote of confidence by majority in the Palestinian Government and its policy statement. Fifty members voted for the government and its policy statement. Twenty-four voted against it, while six members abstained. Three members cast blank ballots. The vote took place in the presence of 83 members, thus meeting the legal quorum.

In today's session, which ended at 1300, President 'Arafat talked about the amendments he introduced to the policy statement, which he had presented to the Legislative Council for a vote of confidence on 23 May. The members presented their observations and proposals about a number of the policy statement's articles.

President 'Arafat stressed that the Council of Ministers deem settlement building and settlements illegal and null and void, and that they must be removed. President 'Arafat demanded the Israeli Government to comply with all the agreements signed between the two sides and to immediately start the final settlement negotiations.

President 'Arafat stressed national unity. He said that the Council of Ministers will call for a national meeting of all forces and parties to draw up a comprehensive national program. He explained that the Council of Ministers will draw up the required plans for the structures of the ministries and specify the tasks of every ministry to combat favoritism.

In the same context, the president said that a committee of experts will be set up in cooperation with the Legislative Council and its specialized committees to draw up those plans. The president added that the Council of Ministers will reconsider the security formations in cooperation with the Legislative Council's security committee. He also declared that a higher judicial council will be set up and that the judicial authority will be rebuilt on firm bases to constitute the true guarantee for the independence of the Palestinian judiciary. The president referred to the agreement with the Legislative Council's security and interior committee and the security organs to hold speedy and urgent sessions to secure the release of those against whom no charges have been proven. 'Arafat indicated that unmarried prisoners in the Israeli occupation prisons will be dealt with as married prisoners with families in terms of financial allocations. He indicated that the trip is long and arduous.

President 'Arafat announced the government formation on 9 May. The government includes 22 ministers, in addition to al-Tayyib 'Abd- al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary general of the Council of Ministers; and three advisers at the rank of ministers.

Palestinian Affairs: Radio Names Cabinet Members

JN2706202796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] By winning the confidence of the Legislative Council with the majority of votes, the incumbent government becomes the first Palestinian Government to be recognized in accordance with parliamentary legitimacy. The vote of confidence was passed after deliberations throughout several Legislative Council meetings. [passage omitted]

The following are the members of the cabinet:

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation;
Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, minister of health;
'Imad al-Faluji, minister of communication;
Samir Ghawshah, minister of labor;
Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture;
Yasir 'Amr, minister of education;
Bashir al-Barghuthi, minister of industry;
Mahir al-Masri, minister of trade and economy;
Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance;
'Ali al-Qawasimi, minister of transport;
Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, minister of social affairs;
Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, minister of higher education;
'Abd-al-'Aziz Shahin, minister of supplies;
Faysal al-Husayni, minister in charge of the Jerusalem file;
Hasan Tahbub, minister of awqaf and religious affairs;
'Azzam al-Ahmad, minister of public works;
Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civil affairs;
Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government;
Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice;
'Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism;
Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, minister of housing;
'Abd-al-Jawwad Salih, minister of agriculture; The following shall also be members of the cabinet:
Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, presidency secretary general with the rank of a minister.
Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary general of the Council of Ministers with the rank of a minister;
'Abdallah Hurani, adviser for refugees' affairs with the rank of a minister;

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, adviser for the Health Ministry with the rank of a minister;
'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab adviser with the rank of a minister.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Cables King Fahd, Clinton on Explosion

JN2706195196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat strongly denounced the terrorist explosion that occurred in Saudi Arabia and encroached on its security and stability.

In a cable sent to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, the president emphasized Palestine's full support for and solidarity with Saudi Arabia in the face of any attempt that aims at encroaching on the security and stability of the kingdom. His excellency stressed his firm determination to continue to coordinate bilateral efforts to confront these terrorist and sabotage actions.

Meanwhile, President Yasir 'Arafat reiterated his condemnation of such actions in a condolences cable he sent today to U.S. President Bill Clinton. He expressed his determination to coordinate the efforts aiming at combating terrorism, on the one hand, and realizing just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the laws of international legitimacy, on the other.

The president conveyed his condolences to the families of victims of the terrorist act at a U.S. base, and he wished the injured speedy recovery.

Palestinian Affairs: PLF's 'Abbas Named Member of 'Higher' Negotiating Team

TA2506170496 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jun 96 p 8

[Report by Munir 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] QUDS PRESS — An authorized Palestinian source has said that President Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Muhammad 'Abbas (Abu-al-'Abbas), secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], as a member of the higher committee for the final talks with Israel.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Wasil Abu-Yusuf, member of the PLF central committee, said that Abu-al-'Abbas will return to the Gaza Strip at the end of next week. He noted that President 'Arafat has appointed Abu-al-'Abbas as a member of the higher committee that supervises the Palestinian negotiating committees with Israel.

Abu-Yusuf added that Abu-al-'Abbas is returning to Gaza to participate in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership that will be held to assess the upcoming stage and prepare for the final solution talks. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Asfur Sees Shift in Likud Stance on Peace Process

TA2706153296 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 26 Jun 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus, QUDS PRESS — Hasan 'Asfur, director of the Negotiations Affairs Department, has said that in the upcoming negotiating battle, the Palestinian side might encounter immense difficulty in the final status talks. He added that this difficulty could stem from pressure on the Palestinian negotiators who will be facing the negotiators of the new Israeli Government.

'Asfur, who was speaking at a lecture organized by the Center for Palestine Research and Studies in Nabulus under the title "the impact of the Likud's victory on the final status talks," explained that most of the issues on which the Palestinian side will be focusing in the final talks, such as Jerusalem and the right of return, are issues which from Israel's perspective cannot be solved. He said that this is apparent from the no's expressed by the Likud Party after winning the elections.

'Asfur added that the Likud will not deal with the peace process on the basis of its proclaimed political program, noting that many of the Likud's positions have changed. As an example, he mentioned the fact that the Likud has deleted from its slogans the concept of "an alternative homeland." Moreover, a shift has occurred in the Likud's position on the National Authority and the Oslo Accords through Netanyahu's statement that he will respect the agreements signed by the previous Israeli Government.

Palestinian Affairs: International Cooperation Minister on Ties With Israel

BR2606135896 Brussels LE SOIR in French 26 Jun 96 p 6

[Report on interview with Palestinian Minister for International Cooperation Nabil Sha'th by Baudouin Loos in Brussels; date not given: "Sha'th: 'We Are All Concerned'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Sha'th, the affable Palestinian minister for international cooperation, yesterday had the "privilege" of being the first senior Arab official to visit the European and Belgian authorities following the momentous defeat of Shim'on Peres in the Israeli elections and the return to power of a right-wing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

coalition government. As he admitted to LE SOIR, his natural optimism has been tested to the full.

"We are all very concerned, as are the United States and the European Union, because we do not know whether Netanyahu will follow the path laid down by the very foundations of the negotiations, with peace in return for land, leading to an independent Palestine with security for all the peoples in the region," he first stated, without denying that the new Israeli Government is sending out "contradictory" signals.

"We, the members of the 'Palestinian Authority,' have not yet really had contact with the Israeli ministers. Dore Gold, who is close to Netanyahu, has telephoned Abu Mazen (effectively the number two man in the PLO — LE SOIR editor's note) on two occasions to say they would remain in contact with us, but nothing else has happened. I also know that this afternoon the Israeli prime minister spoke of shortly resuming negotiations, but we would like to see concrete indications in the field. There is certainly no shortage of opportunities. What will they do in Hebron where they are supposed to pull out their troops? How will they act in Jerusalem? Will they continue to seal off Palestinian territories? When will they return to the negotiating table with us?"

The program of the new Israeli coalition, which rules out an end to new Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the emergence of a Palestinian State, not to mention Jerusalem which is nonnegotiable, is seen by Sha'th as "not opening the door to compromise."

"This new government is nevertheless bound to honor the international commitments entered into by its predecessor," he says. "Because the Israeli-Palestinian agreements were not only signed by Peres but also countersigned by the U.S. President, and the Russian, European, and Arab representatives. There is one thing which stays in our mind: The statements by the last Likud prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, when he lost power in 1992 and then admitted that he had been negotiating with us for 10 years without making any progress! You will understand our reasonable level of concern when I say the peace process is the best thing to have happened to our region and its destruction will affect all countries — first and foremost Israel which gained so much by it in economic and diplomatic terms."

But what about the guarantees which Binyamin Netanyahu is demanding in terms of Israel's security? "The best guarantees are still to continue with the peace process, for which we assumed an unprecedented share of responsibility in terms of security. But you must give hope to the 70 percent unemployed which we have at present, because what direction are they going to take otherwise?"

But Sha'th's inherent optimism has not totally deserted him. "In the short term we have difficulties to overcome. In the long term all the parties will come together in their determination to see the peace process triumph. Here in Brussels we met with European Commission President Jacques Santer, European Parliament President Klaus Haensch, and Belgian Foreign Minister Erik Derycke whose very active role is much appreciated. We felt a unanimous European commitment not to permit any dilution of the peace process. A commitment expressed in speeding up negotiations with a view to signing an association agreement between ourselves and the [European] Union."

Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Qaddumi Criticizes Arab Summit Results

TA2706134996 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Mu'in Wafa'i]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, QUDS PRESS — The head of the PLO Political Department has criticized the draft of the final communique of the Arab summit conference, which ended its work last Sunday [23 June] in Cairo. Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, said that the communique's language was mild.

Qaddumi stressed that the summit did not create mechanisms to follow up the implementation of its resolutions.

Qaddumi, who is the first Palestinian official to participate in drafting and attacking the Cairo summit's final communique, described the summit as an Arab garb for an Arab body suffering from numerous diseases. He noted that the Arab leaders did not come out from the summit with a specific program.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS in Cairo, Qaddumi said that the Arabs exaggerated the importance of their conference, which was not comprehensive because of Iraq's exclusion from the summit. Nevertheless, Qaddumi, who opposes the Declaration of Principle's self-rule agreement, said that the mere fact that the summit was held is a positive initiative.

The Palestinian official added that the Arab summit desisted from following up its results as soon as the final meeting was adjourned. He pointed out that the summit authorized Egypt to carry out contacts and consultations but not follow up the resolutions. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th Says Talks With EU Officials 'Very Successful'

JN2606145396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation who is leading Palestine's delegation to the Palestinian-European partnership and cooperation negotiations, said that talks with the European delegation were very successful. Sha'th added that the phased agreement between the two sides will begin with an interim agreement that will be signed by President Yasir 'Arafat and EC President Jacques Santer.

Sha'th held a number of meetings with Santer and many European officials on political developments, the resolutions of the EU Florence summit, and the results and resolutions of the Arab summit. They also discussed ways to bolster European support for Palestinian development plans and reconstruction and the peace process.

The European commissioner will visit Palestine and meet with President Yasir 'Arafat on 1 August.

Dr. Sha'th also met with the European Parliament speaker and Belgian foreign minister, who expressed his country's desire to play a significant role in supporting Palestine and easing the effects of the Israeli siege imposed on Palestine.

Palestinian Affairs: 750-Unit Housing Project Planned in West Bank, Gaza

JN2806081596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with a businessman, 'Umar al-Aqqad, at the Presidential Offices in Gaza last night. The meeting focused on the role the private sector can play in rebuilding what was destroyed by the occupation and contributing to the economic development process.

Al-'Aqqad presented to the president the idea of building a housing project for low-income people who can pay for their homes in monthly installments. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, who attended the meeting, praised the project, saying it was a pioneering idea. Sha'th said the project, which will start immediately, involves the building of 750 housing units in the West Bank and Gaza governorates and that the monthly installment for each of these units will not exceed $200. He added that businessman 'Umar al-'Aqqad will also establish factories to produce building materials.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Netanyahu Political Adviser Meets 'Arafat in Gaza

TA2806052996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Binyamin Netanyahu's political adviser Dore Gold conferred with Yasir 'Arafat at his home in Gaza last night. Likud Knesset Member [MK] Gid'on 'Ezra, a former senior Shin Bet official, apparently did not participate in the meeting. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 28 June reports that "another Israeli was also involved in the meeting, perhaps Likud MK Gid'on 'Ezra.]

Dr. Gold waited at the Erez junction for Colonel Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the Gaza Strip, to take him to 'Arafat's home.

In the past few days, Israel's political leadership has received assessments from senior Palestinian security officials that they will not be able to fight Islamic terrorism if the government does not change its attitude toward the Palestinian Authority.

Moledet Knesset faction head Rehav'am Ze'evi told Qol Yisra'el this morning that the Netanyahu government is continuing the policy of its predecessor, and if that is the case, then he prefers the Peres government.

Labor MK Hagay Merom welcomed the night meeting in Gaza, but called on the government to hold open meetings as all sovereign governments should. The prime minister is due to report to today's cabinet session on the night meeting in Gaza and hold consultations on Hebron and Orient House.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Algeria: Loan, Debt Rescheduling Accords Reached With IMF, Creditors

LD2706230596 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a communique issued by the IMF today, the fund has agreed to grant Algeria a loan worth $252 million to finance its cereal imports, whose prices have gone up. This loan was agreed to support Algeria's effort in this field.

An agreement on the rescheduling of Algeria's private sector debts worth $2.2 billion was signed in London today. Another rescheduling agreement worth $1 billion will be signed in July.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak's 'Political Differences' With U.S. Said Reason for News Conference Cancellation

LD2706180996 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, June 27, IRNA — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak cancelled a programmed press conference with the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo yesterday, Egyptian daily AL-AHRAR Thursday reported, quoting U.S. Embassy sources. Political differences between Cairo and Washington erupted after Christopher reportedly said he supported the hard-line views of the head of the Zionist regime, Binyamin Netanyahu, on the so-called peace process, diplomatic circles in Cairo told the paper.

Netanyahu has said the Zionist state's security was more important than peace, and that he will not withdraw from the Golan Heights and not allow the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Christopher, who went to Cairo after holding talks with Netanyahu in Israel, in his talks with Mubarak also said that the shipment of Scud missiles which reportedly Egypt has recently received, threatened Israel's security.

The U.S. official held a joint press conference with PNA-chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa after the end of his talks in Cairo.

Meanhwile, another Egyptian opposition daily AL-WAFD today called on the Arab leaders to stop normalisation with Israel and cut-off all trade links and shut down all Israeli offices and representations in Arab capitals. "This is the least that you can do," said AL-WAFD in a front-page editorial titled "what are you waiting for, o Arabs."

Egypt: 'Diplomatic Source' Remarks on Netanyahu's, U.S. Stance

NC2706182996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—An informed diplomatic source has stated that the expanded Arab summit that was recently held in Cairo dealt with the regional and international realities with great objectivity. He said the Arab summit communique tells Israel that the door is still open for the new Israeli Government to resume the peace process on the basis of the Madrid terms of reference and pertinent resolutions. He noted there are upcoming opportunities to complete the political concept of the new Israeli policy. He expressed his apprehension that the rigidity of the new Israeli Government regarding the peace process is part of Israel's strategy in the next stage, something that will negatively affect the peace process and, subsequently, stability and security in the entire region.

The source stressed that a meeting between new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is a necessity for peace. He noted that holding the meeting for security reasons, as Netanyahu has said, means moving away from the peace process. This, he said, will not be accepted by the Arab parties because the Palestinian president is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and is not an official in charge of security in Israel. Discussing Arab-U.S. ties, the source said these relations may stand on solid ground when the U.S. partner emphasizes its complete neutrality and is an honest broker in the peace process.

Egypt: Paper Criticizes 'Fabricated' U.S. 'Furor' Over Egypt's Missiles

MM2706155896 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 15

[Editorial: "Egypt's Missiles Worrying Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Suddenly, and after the Cairo Arab summit conference, U.S. circles — at Israel's behest — began to whip up a kind of fabricated furor over Egypt's acquisition of North Korean Scud missiles whose range exceeds 150 km.

Israel — which is in possession of more than 300 nuclear warheads, modern factories for the manufacture of missiles and satellites, and thousands of advanced aircraft and tanks — is concerned over Egypt's possession of Scud missiles or the technology needed to manufacture them in cooperation with North Korea. It considers this a threat to peace in the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Since the Hebrew state draws up U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, it was natural for leaks to begin to be sent to the U.S. press about these missiles and their violation of the peace treaty signed in Camp David, the treaty which stipulates the nonacquisition of any offensive weapons — only weapons needed for defense purposes.

The Scud missiles, of which Iraq fired 39 against Israel during the second Gulf war, all of which hit their targets but without any tangible material or human losses, are considered by the Israeli Government offensive weapons which Egypt should be prevented from acquiring.

It is not difficult to know the reasons behind this fabricated furor. The rulers of Israel, which has elected an extremist right-wing government, had never thought that Egypt would host an expanded Arab summit to discuss the seriousness of the Israeli deviation from the peace process and to warn of a halt to the normalization process as a reply to any settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

The Israelis want the Egyptian leadership to forget its historic and cultural standing and to turn into a subservient state in order to help them to infiltrate and dominate the Arab region. This is the explanation for the Israeli-U.S. anger at Egypt and its leadership since it took the initiative and invited Arab leaders to Cairo to consult over how to deal with the results of the Israeli elections.

But Egypt is proving day after day that it is not an obedient lamb that implements all the Israelis' wishes without any discussion. Egypt's reaction to Christopher's support for Netanyahu's settlement program reflects this fact clearly. Thus we would not be surprised if the Zionist lobby's supporters in the U.S. Senate began to talk about suspending their country's annual aid to Egypt, which totals more than $2 billion.

This is a new Israeli-U.S. provocation to Egypt which will result in very serious consequences, because it will aggravate the people's indignation which prevails in Egypt and the Arab region as a whole as a result of the continued U.S. insults and the deliberate Israeli humiliation.

Egypt has the absolute right to acquire any weapons and military equipment it deems suitable, because it is a major sovereign state, and any attempt to impair its sovereignty will lead to adverse, if not catastrophic, results for them before anyone else. When Egypt rebelled and led the region in a confrontation against Israel and the West, U.S. interests were harmed most. As for Israel, it has always experienced the specter of war.

Egypt: Weekly Claims Israel Ready To Build Reactor Near Border

NC2706193596 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 24 Jun 96 p 18

[Report by Maha Mansur]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is currently preparing to build a new atomic reactor near the Egyptian borders, 25 km from the town of 'Awajah in Sinai. Stating this, Dr. Muhammad Mustafa, expert in the Atomic Energy Agency, added that the proximity of the new reactor to the border would increase the danger of radioactive pollution in that area because of the radioactive gases emitted by the reactor and the plant treating the waste.

Egypt: 'Sources' Say Israel-Turkey Accord Aimed Against Iran Threat

BR2806092896 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 28 Jun 96 p 9

[Report by Eric Salerno: "Iran's Atom Bomb in Israel's Gun Sights"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — A plan dreamed up last year to strike at Iran's nuclear installations allegedly underlies the recent military cooperation accord signed by Israel and Turkey. Sources close to the Egyptian Government, with whom we spoke on the sidelines of the recent Arab summit, are convinced of this. These sources say that the plan "to be kept simmering on the back burner" was drawn up to counter the possibility — or more likely, the probability — that Tehran may one day be in a position to manufacture the nuclear bomb. [passage omitted]

The Arabs in Cairo criticized the accord between Israel and Turkey because they see it as a threat. "Damascus is worried," an Egyptian source explained. "Syria fears the aid that the Israelis could provide the Turks in their struggle against Kurds operating from bases in Syria. But in our view the aim of the accord goes far beyond that." [passage omitted]

"Washington would like to teach Iran a lesson, but it is not necessarily in a position to, or keen to do so itself. Israeli pilots are well known for their ability to carry out special strike missions. They wiped out 'Osirak' [name as published], the Iraqi nuclear power station, before anybody in the West even realized just how dangerous the regime in Baghdad was." With Turkish air bases available to them, the Israelis could rapidly reach any Iranian target. Everything would be safer, less distant.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

They would have no need to fool Arab radar systems or embarrass friendly countries like Jordan by entering their air space. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Mauritania: Opposition Party Sacks Executives for 'Defamation Campaign'

AB2706205296 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have learned that problems have cropped up within the Union for Democracy and Progress [UDP], the second opposition political party in Mauritiania. This party has embarked on a purge within its ranks. Four members of the party's executive bureau have been dismissed. They are accused of betraying the party's line of conduct. The dismissed party figures include Mohamed Ould Baba, former minister and so far the second in command of the party, and Mohamed Ould Menayer, second deputy chairman and former Mauritanian ambassador to Paris. UDP Chairman Amdi Ould Meknas gave Salem Meshbour Salem the reasons for this dismissal regarded in Mauritania as a great event. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Meknas recording] A group of UDP leaders proposed the dismissal of the secretary general of the party without giving the reasons for this dismissal. Following the party chairman's refusal to dismiss him, these comrades embarked on a defamation campaign against the party and its chairman. They held divisive meetings outside the headquarters and without the knowledge of the party leaders. Since they refused to come back to their senses, it was decided to dismiss them in accordance with the statutory terms of the party. [end recording]

Morocco

Morocco: King Hassan Condemns Saudi Bomb Blast

LD2706123396 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, June 27 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco Wednesday [26 June] condemned Tuesday's truck bomb blast in Al-Khobar in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 Americans and injured 380 people.

In a message addressed to U.S. President Bill Clinton, the monarch described as an "abominable crime" this terrorist "barbarous act", and wished that Clinton realizes his hopes of restoring stability and security in the region and a just and lasting peace for its peoples.

A similar message was sent by the monarch to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The truck bomb blast was condemned by several leaders around the world as well as by the Arab League, the U.N. Security Council and other organizations.

Arab League Secretary General Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said, in a cable of condolences to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, "we strongly condemn this terrorist cowardly act which contradicts our Arab and islamic traditions."

The Arab interior ministers meeting in Tunis also condemned the explosion that "targeted the Arab nation which is passing through a historically critical stage", a statement said calling on all Arab states to stand together and confront terrorism to secure security and stability.

Sudan

Sudan: Al-Bashir, Other Officials Condemn Saudi Bombing

EA2806104896 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has condemned the bombing incident which occurred in the Saudi town of al-Khubar and which caused the death of many people. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, condemned the bombing in a message he sent to the custodian of the two Holy Places, King Fahd bid 'Abd-al- Aziz al Sa'ud. He stressed that such acts are contrary to human ideals and norms.

Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, also condemned the incident in a similar message to Prince Abdullah bin 'Abd-al-Aziz al Sa'ud, the crown prince.

Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, minister of external relations, expressed Sudan's condemnation of the bombing incident in a message sent to his counterpart, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister.

Sudan: Official Reports on Nationals Expelled From Libya, Yemen

EA2206161096 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum [dateline as received] — The number of Sudanese returnees from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has reached about 150,000 since the Libyan authorities ordered the expulsion of all foreign nationals living illegally in Libya, according to the secretary general of the authority responsible for the affairs of Sudanese working abroad.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He also said the decision by the Republic of Yemen to terminate the services of foreign teachers has affected 2,500 Sudanese teachers. In this regard he referred to contacts [words indistinct] to absorb the Sudanese teachers in various educational establishments in the country. He added that the authority will make arrangements with the Sudanese Embassy in Sanaa to facilitate their transportation and return to the country. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: President Comments on UN Voter-Identification Move

LD2806103096 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference in solidarity with the Saharan people was concluded yesterday in Madrid. It was held under the banner: "Peace and justice for the Saharan people to avert war" and attended by Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz and hundreds of participants from Europe and the United States.

Before the opening of the conference, the Saharan president held a news conference in which he explained the development of the security situation in Western Sahara and the seriousness of the Security Council's resolution concerning the suspension of the voter-identification process. The Saharan president said that the peace plan was not being implemented because Morocco had created obstacles aimed at preventing a free and impartial self-determination referendum from being held in Western Sahara.

President Mohamed Abdelaziz also said that the failure of the peace plan would mean the failure of the United Nations Organization and the international community which had recognized the Saharan people's full right to self-determination and independence.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Sentences Passed on Bombing Spree Defendants

JN2706145696 (Internet) Al-Ayyam WWW in Arabic 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Court, which convened on the morning of Wednesday, 26 June 1996, passed its sentences in the cases of the bombings at the Meridien Hotel, the Diplomat Hotel, and the two branches of the Bahrain Corporation for International Shipping and Trade located in the Diplomatic Quarter and al-'Adliyah. Ten defendants were implicated in these cases. The sentences were as follows:

First defendant 'Abdallah Nasir Muhammad Al Tawq received a life prison sentence. Second defendant 'Ali Hasan 'Abdallah Ghannam received a 15-year prison term. Third defendant Hamzah 'Abd-al-Husayn Ibrahim Salih received a 10-year prison term. Fourth defendant Ahmad Haydar 'Abbas Haydar [name as transliterated] (Iranian national) received a seven-year prison term, as well as a deportation order after serving his prison term. Sixth defendant 'Abbas 'Ali Ahmad Hubayl received a seven-year prison term. Seventh defendant Husayn Ja'far Sadiq al-Najjar received a 10-year prison term. Eighth defendant Ja'far Khalil Ibrahim Hubayl received a seven-year prison term and was fined 1,000 dinars.

The court acquitted fifth defendant Sayyid 'Ali Ja'far Shabar 'Alawi, ninth defendant Mahdi Ibrahim Ja'far 'Ali, and 10th defendant 'Adil Hasan 'Abdallah Ghannam. In the course of its pleading, the public prosecution presented 54 pieces of evidence in these cases. All of the sessions were attended by the defendants' defense attorneys.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: 'Hizbollah Gulf' Claims Responsibility for Blast

MS2806094096 London THE TIMES in English 28 Jun 96 p 14

[Report by Christopher Walker and Michael Binyon; "Dhahran Bombing Claimed by Second Islamic Group"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A second, previously unknown group, Hizbollah-Gulf, last night claimed responsibility for the explosion in which 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia were killed, as FBI agents hunted for clues to discover whether the attack was carried out with Iranian backing.

The claim, being treated as potentially serious by Western security experts, came in a statement in Arabic read to a news agency in the Gulf. Hizbollah (the Party of God) is closely linked to Tehran and only last month, another new wing of the organisation. Hizbollah-Bahrain was named by the authorities as behind a plot to overthrow the pro-Western Bahraini regime. "In the name of God the merciful, Hizbollah-Gulf declares its total responsibility for the Saudi explosion. We threaten to carry out more attacks," the caller said. In Iran, Hizbollah is the name used to describe Islamic militants who provide grassroots support for the revolutionary Government, which yesterday denied any involvement in Tuesday's [25 June] bomb, the worst attack on American servicemen or civilians in the Middle East for 13 years.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is planning to deliver a personal assurance to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday that the world's most powerful nations are united in their determination to combat Islamic and other terrorism.

Travelling straight to Saudi Arabia after the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, he will be the first Western minister to visit the desert kingdom since the Dhahran bombing, and will take with him the firm commitment of world leaders to back the Saudi Government in its fight against Islamic extremists.

He will also insist that Britain views with repugnance remarks by Muhammad al-Mas'ari, the dissident Saudi physicist granted temporary asylum in Britain, that the bombing was "intellectually justified". Dr Mas'ari said he did not condone the bombings, but believed the US faced further attacks. John Major dismissed Dr Mas'ari's remarks. "I can see no case intellectually, or any other sort, for that sort of activity in Dhahran," the Prime Minister said. "It is indefensible by any tenet."

Even before yesterday's admission of responsibility for the explosion, President Weizman of Israel alleged after talks with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, that Iran was behind the explosion in which 60 other Americans were seriously wounded. Many of those were airlifted to Germany yesterday for treatment in a US military hospital while the bodies of the victims were flown back home.

Arab diplomats said that the second claim appeared more authentic than the first, mad 24 hours earlier in a call to al Arab newspaper in London alleging that another previously unknown group — the Legion of the Martyr Abdul al-Huzayfi — had carried out the attack. That group was linked to two Saudis beheaded last year for throwing acid at a Saudi officer. Questioned about the claims and the FBI investigation, Mr Christopher urged caution. "Although there have been some claims of responsibility, we do not know if these are spurious or valid," he said at the G7 summit in Lyons.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Despite the denial from Tehran, the semi-official Iranian media made little effort to disguise their glee at the attack, claiming that Saudi Arabia would witness its own Islamic revolution if American forces did not withdraw and the ruling Al-Sa'ud family did not give a political say to the opposition, which consists mainly of Islamic fundamentalists.

Tehran's daily ABRAR, in a commentary headlined "Aftershocks in the island of black gold", said: "It seems that in the next few years, a second Middle East explosion [the first being Iran's Islamic revolution] will take place in Saudi Arabia."

Tehran radio said that the opposition to the presence of US forces was not limited to the Gulf; it also included Japan. The radio added: "The presence of American forces in countries with strong traditional and religious social structures has provoked the sensitivities of... people who see this presence as an obstacle to their own cultural identity and national independence."

IRAN NEWS repeated the mullahs position that America and other Western forces were a threat to the Gulf's security and should leave. "In principle, terrorism is to be condemned. However, regional observers believe that such acts will continue as long as US forces are present in this part of the world.

Intelligence experts cited the planning, organisation and finance needed for the attack as indicating the backing of a foreign power.

Saudi Arabia: Authorities Identify 'Features' of 2 Bomb Suspects

MM2806093896 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Khalil al-Ma'huf: "Saudi Authorities Define the Features of the Two Persons Who Parked Tanker Near Residential Complex"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, al-Khubar, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH has learned that the Saudi security authorities have managed to define the features of the two men who had been in the tanker which exploded near the residential complex in al-Khubar on Tuesday [25 June] evening, killing 19 Americans. The two persons in question parked the tanker near the complex and fled in a car that was waiting for them. It has also been learned that the search is under way for the two persons in order to discover their identity. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Interior Ministry Offers Reward for Blast Information

LD2806074096 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 27, SPA — The Ministry of the Interior has announced offering a SR [Saudi riyals] 10 million reward for information leading to the capture of any person who planned, perpetrated, contributed to, or assisted in the criminal car bomb explosion which occurred in al-Khubar city in the eastern region on Tuesday, June 25.

An official source at the ministry urged all sincere citizens and residents to positively cooperate with their brothers in the security authorities on this issue.

He called on everybody who has useful information about this issue to contact one of the two following numbers: 03-8998900 or 03-8999011, or contact the nearest security agency in the area where they are staying.

Saudi Arabia: Opposition Leader Expects Attacks on Non-U.S. Targets

JN2706155696 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been numerous reactions to the al-Khubar explosion. Saudi opposition circles expect more operations that may target non-Americans in the future. Let us listen to Dr. Sa'd al-Faqih, head of the Islamic Movement for Reform [al-harakah al-islamiyah lil-islah], responding to a question from Ahmad Suwaydan:

[Begin al-Faqih recording] I expect that if one tries to determine how they think, he will find that they believe that hitting U.S. targets incites the Western media and attracts attention to Saudi Arabia more than if other targets were to be attacked. Note that in the aftermath of the Riyadh and al-Khbar explosions, all world mass media headed there to discuss the issue and analyze the situation to explore the nature of the relationship between the Americans and the Saudis. This could be a very important reason for selecting U.S. targets. However, I personally expect that if force continues to be used, perhaps not only U.S. targets will be attacked. There could be other targets. God knows. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi Arabia: Bombing Reportedly 'Sparks Debate' About U.S. Presence

MS2806111896 London THE GUARDIAN in English 28 Jun 96 p 14

[Report by Richard Norton-Taylor and Kathy Evans: "U.S. Steps Up Security as Saudi Groups Back Blast"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States said yesterday it would step up the security of its forces in Saudi Arabia after the blast that wrecked a US military complex in Dhahran killing 19 US servicemen.

As FBI investigators searched through the rubble of the accommodation block at the air force base in eastern Saudi Arabia — which also houses British and French airmen — Major-General Kurt Anderson of the US air force admitted they had been unprepared for such a large bomb.

He said the bomb on Tuesday [25 June] had the force of about 3,000lb opf explosive — significantly larger than the blast at a US-run Saudi National Guard training centre in Riyadh last November.

Questions were asked yesterday about how the attackers managed to station a lorry-bomb in a car park which, although outside the compound's perimeter wall, was a few dozen yards from the nearest housing block.

US officers stressed that Saudi authorities were responsible for patrolling areas outside the wall. But it was a US security guard who spotted the booby-trapped truck and raised the alarm, allowing a partial evacuation.

Saudi Arabia has offered a reward of 10 million riyal (1.73 million pounds) for help leading to arrests. The bodies of the 19 US airmen killed were flown home yesterday.

The bombing appears to have sparked a debate among Saudis about the future of the US presence. Some argued that the US military should be housed deep in the desert well away from Saudi residential areas.

Road blocks were mounted on all main roads in the eastern province. Dhahran residents said Saudis sporting Islamic-style beards were attracting special scrutiny by the security forces.

Two previously unheard of groups have claimed responsibility for the bombing. A caller to the London Arabic newspaper AL-ARAB claimed the attack was carried out by a group calling itself the Legions of the Martyr Abdullah Huzayfi. Huzayfi was executed by the Saudis last year, despite being sentenced earlier to 20 years in prison, for the murder of a policeman. Huzayfi had claimed the policeman had tortured him and members of his family.

Another group telephoned a news agency in Dubai claiming the bombing had been carried out by Hizbullah Gulf, another previously unknown group.

Germany's security and intelligence co-ordinator, Berndt Schmidbauer, said former Afghan guerrillas may have been linked to the Dhahran bomb. "We believe the attack has a Saudi background, as in 1995 — opposition groups with support from former Afghan fighters," he said.

He added: "The increase in brutality and volume of explosives used indicates the bombers must have had considerable logistical support."

Gen Anderson, who commands Operation Southern Watch — policing a no-fly zone in southern Iraq — said allied flights from Dhahran, suspended after the bomb blast, would resume today. He said they had been maintained since the bombing from other Saudi bases, which he did not identify.

The operation is designed to prevent a repeat of the Iraqi strikes on Shiite Muslim dissidents that followed Baghdad's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war, or a build-up of Iraqi ground forces near its southern border with Kuwait.

The London-based Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari said yesterday that the bombers had an "intellectually very strong" ease for their action.

"As long as they protect an oppressive regime and occupy our territory, then America can be regarded as the enemy," he said in an interview.

Saad al-Faqih, the spokesman for the London-based Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia — which reentry split from Dr Mas'ari's Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights — said he believed the abuse of human rights in Saudi Arabia was a more immediate problem than the presence of US soldiers.

"What we need first is a proper mechanism to share power," Dr Faqih said. "If the Americans want their troops to be safe, then they should press the al-Sa'ud family to stop violating human rights and release our prisoners. Until there is some kind of power-sharing, the Americans will be a force invited into my country at the request of dictators."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi Arabia: Blast's Effect Said Limited by Nature of Saudi Economy

MM2706143296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "The Sound of the Blast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The blast in al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia, is very significant, because it was a huge blast, both in size and objective, and because the victims were Americans it has some other media implications.

However, what can such a blast ultimately achieve? It can neither change policy nor win any sympathy. Instead, for the people, it will be a confirmation of the criminal nature of political propaganda. Nobody wants to see his country turn, like other states, into a battlefield. Hence the al-Khubar incident, and the al-'Ulayya incident before it, justify the need to deal firmly with those movements which advocate violence and have failed to win the people's sympathy through leaflets. In our time of much simpler mechanics for good and evil, it is easy to intimidate people through the force of weapons, but is difficult to win their minds and hearts.

Bombings are not an unfamiliar method in Saudi Arabia. They were used before by leftists during the sixties and failed to change anything. Instead, those organizations which carried them out, and the governments which backed them, disappeared in time without being able to introduce socialism into Saudi Arabia, despite subjecting it to a media siege and carrying out bombings in several cities. Later, there were attempts by the Iranians, who, during the Hajj season in the eighties, stirred up disturbances, at times bloody, in holy Mecca. However, they ended and the Iranians were unable to impose any of their policies. The Baghdad government posed out the biggest threat in the region after invading Kuwait, and it too failed to change anything, despite the fact that its missiles reached Riyadh and Dammam.

History confirms that the land of Saudi Arabia was immune neither to outside threats nor to terrorist incidents. It was, however, able to confront them better because of many factors. Perhaps the most important among them is the fact that these incidents represent either individuals, small groups, or foreign organizations, and hence their impact fails to reach beyond the site of the blast, and more importantly are incapable of bringing about change. The second factor is the fact that a state such as Saudi Arabia does not depend on outside revenues which can be affected by the way others perceive it. There is no tourism in Saudi Arabia. Instead it makes its living from its oil exports and the support industries. Being essential commodities which are in demand, these are far removed from such problems. Consequently, in the case of Saudi Arabia, the blasts are unlike those which could harm a state that depends on services linked to foreign trade and to the country's image.

Therefore, no matter how many blasts there are, they will always be contained within their sites, and will justify every action to pursue their perpetrators. By targeting Americans in the Riyadh and al-Khubar incident, the perpetrators wanted perhaps to show Westerners that, after defending the likes of these people in the past, they are now reaping the harvest in separate incidents in the region.

Saudi Arabia: Papers React to 'Terrorist Blast'

LD2706145396 Riyadh SPA in English 1307 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, June 27, SPA — Saudi papers on Thursday [27 June] made a wide coverage on the criminal and terrorist blast that rocked a military residential compound in Khobar, eastern region. The headlines and top news and editorial stories were devoted to the accident.

The Jeddah-based, AL-BILAD, in an editorial story denounced the criminal blast and vowed that the such brutal and terrorist gangs would not affect the security of this Kingdom which has been honored by the almighty Allah by housing the two holy mosques.

If terrorists think that they accomplished some success elsewhere and they could do something against the Kingdom, they should realize the fact that any terrorist activities in the Kingdom will deem to failure because they could not affect a concrete and well-established state who rules in the framework of the Islamic teachings, it said.

AL-RIYADH, of Riyadh, said criminals who mastermind the Khobar blast should have had benefit from the past lesson of the Ulaya street explosion late last year when the entire Saudi people angered and deeply injured by such criminal acts — they should understand that the reaction of the people this time would be similar if not harsher than before.

The paper defended the security measures and denied any shortage in this regard. It said many countries of the world, including more advanced ones with huge security facilities, suffer from such terrorist acts because they know the fact that dealing with criminals is not that easy.

AL-NADWAH of Makkah also denounced the criminal explosion which it described as unjustified act and nothing but a work of the allies of Satan who make

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

violation of bloods and honors of innocent people as profession.

The paper said such crime does not represent a heroic act, because blood shedding of people and destruction of a building of innocent residents could be only viewed as a nefarious act of people who observe no norms or principles. It expressed confidence that the criminals would never run away from punishment.

The Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said the criminal blast has nothing to do with the noble values and traditions of the Saudi peaceful society.

"The arrest of the criminals who implemented the vicious blast does not rest on the security bodies alone, but it is the responsibility of all people who love this country whether citizens or residents who enjoy the favors of security and stability of the Kingdom and all nationals and foreigners who reside in the Kingdom should show much cooperation with the security forces until the criminals are brought to justice, "the paper said and said these spiteful and malicious acts would not affect the political, social and economic stability of the Kingdom which was described as a island of peace and stability in the middle of a sea of unrest and conflicts.

Saudi Arabia: Arab Leaders Condemn 'Criminal Explosion'

LD2706140796 Riyadh SPA in English 1320 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 27, SPA — Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud received on Wednesday [26 June] a telephone call from President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan who sharply condemned the criminal explosion which occurred in Khobar on Tuesday night. King fahd thanked Al-Bashir for his brotherly stand and confirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will firmly confront any action against the security of its people and residents.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard also received yesterday a telephone call from President al-Bashir on the same occasion and Crown Prince 'Abdallah assured President al-Bashir that such criminal acts would never affect the stability and security of the Kingdom and he thanked him for the fraternal position.

Last night, King Fahd also received a telephone call from Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifa, the amir of Bahrain who deplored the terrorist act which was designed to terrify innocent people of Khobar and reiterated his country's full suppport for the Kingdom. King Fahd expressed thanks and appreciation to Shaykh 'Isa for the brotherly feelings.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz also received last night a telephone call from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen who said his country will firmly stand beside the Kingdom and back all measures that would be taken by the kingdom to preserve its peace and stability.

President Salih termed the blast as a nefarious and terrorist act against the entire Arab security which was embodied by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. King Fahd thanked President Salih for the brotherly feelings and emphasized that such vicious acts could never affect the security and stability of the Kingdom.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz also received a telephone call last night from Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani the amir of Qatar and during the call, Shaykh Hamad deplored the vicious blast and expressed confidence that the security of the Kingdom would not be weakened by such criminal and outlawed acts.

For his part, Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general received last night a telephone call from the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry during which the latter conveyed to Prince Sultan condolences to custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the families of the victims of the criminal blast.

Prince Sultan also received a telephone call from the Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, who on behalf of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen, expressed full support for the measures being taken by the Kingdom to maintain peace and stability in the face of such criminal and irresponsible acts. Prince Sultan thanked Prime Ministe 'Abd-al-Ghani, the Yemeni leadership and people for the fraternal feelings.

King Husayn of Jordan also condemned the criminal and terrorist blast and expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. King Husayn made the remarks during a telephone call received by Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz last night and the Jordanian monarch reaffirmed the Jordanian rejection of any act that might disturb the security and stability of the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the minister of interior received last night a telephone call from Shaykh Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib the Omani minister of interior who condemned the criminal explosion.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Meanwhile, the Muslem World League (MWL) has sharply denounced the painful explosion accident that occurred in Khobar on Tuesday night and expressed regret over the fate of victims and intimidation of innocent people.

A statement issued by the secretary General Makkah-based MWL Dr 'Abdallah al-'Ubayd last night termed the blast as a criminal act designed to disturb the security and stability of the Kingdom and the entire region. He said the constituent council of the League and affiliated Supreme World Council of Mosques denounce that act which runs counter to the Islamic teachings, human rights and the rules of shari'ah which forbid such criminal acts and killing and intimidation of innocent people.

Similar remarks were made by the Secretary General of the Arab Council of Interior Minister Dr Ahmad al-Salim who termed the security of the Kingdom as indivisible part of the Arab security. Dr al-Salim expressed extreme regret and condemnation of the criminal blast of Khobar on Tuesday which claimed innocent lives and wounding of scores. He said, in a press statement yesterday that the Council of the Arab Interior Minister will exert utmost efforts to cooperate with the Saudi security bodies under the wise directives of King Fahd and Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the minister of interior to trace and bring to justice the criminals who planned and carried out the terrorist blast.

Meanwhile, Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the vice minister of defense, aviation and inspector general announced in Khobar last night they he conveyed to the wounded of the explosion in Khobar the greetings of King Fahd and his wishes for quick recovery.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman made the remarks upon his return from an inspection visit to the people who were wounded in the explosion and he expressed hope that the criminals will be uncovered as soon as possible.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman said such incidents could happen in any country and made it clear that terrorist acts would not affect the relations between the Kingdom and the United States.

In Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates condemned the bombing of Khobar which it said has nothing to do with the Islamic principles and civilized and humanitarian attitudes. An official source of the UAE's Foreign Ministry expressed absolute support of the UAE to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and said the Kingdom, with its wise leadership, will trace and catch the criminals and will remain a land of peace and stability. The source urged all GCC states and the international community to make firm measures for elimination of terrorism.

In Jeddah, Dr Hamid Al-Gabid, the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference deplored the vicious bombing and said the OIC will extend all possible support for the Kingdom's measures to maintain peace and stability.

Dr al-Gabid, who made the remarks in a cable to King Fahd last night, expressed full confidence that authorities of this country could arrest those who committed the vicious act and inflict the verdicts of shari'ah on them. Dr al-Gabid sharply denounced the blast and expressed condolence to the relatives of the victims.

In Cairo the Arab League also denounced the criminal blast. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid the secretary general of the League sent a cable of solidarity and condemnation to King Fahd in which he termed the blast as a coward and terrorist act that runs counter to the Islamic teachings, arab values and traditions.

In Beirut, Lebanon renewed condemnation of the criminal blast and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri told reporters following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri, that Lebanon, which previously suffered from terrorist acts, strongly condemns the explosion of Khobar.

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Shaykh Zayid, Foreign Ministry Condemn al-Khubar Explosion

JN2706153496 (Internet) AL-ITTIHAD WWW in Arabic 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] WAM, News Agencies—The terrorist explosion that targeted a housing complex for U.S. forces in al-Khubar, in Saudi Arabia, drew a strong wave of condemnation from the Arab Gulf states and all other countries.

The United Arab Emirates [UAE] strongly condemned the incident and expressed its full solidarity with fraternal Saudi Arabia and its complete support for the kingdom in its confrontation of this alien phenomenon.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state; and His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, vice president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai; sent two condolences cables to their brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of Saudi Arabia; and to His Excellency Bill Clinton, president of the United States, in which they expressed their sincere condolences for the explosion that took place in al-Khubar on Tuesday [25 June] night. His highness the president condemned the criminal act committed against the innocent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Shaykh Zayid emphasized the UAE support for Saudi Arabia. In a telephone call with his brother King Fahd last night, Shaykh Zayid said the criminal aggression that occurred in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday is an aggression against all of us and not only against Saudi Arabia, because what harms the government and people of Saudi Arabia harms the UAE Government and people. [passage omitted]

An official Foreign Ministry source said yesterday that the UAE strongly condemns the terrorist explosion that took place in al-Khubar, in fraternal Saudi Arabia, and denounces the ugly crime as a terrorist act that is not sanctioned by our true religion and our tolerant sharia, and that conflicts with our human and civilized behavior.

The source said the UAE emphasizes its solidarity with fraternal Saudi Arabia and its full support for it in confronting these phenomena that are alien to our society. The source said: The UAE expresses its full confidence that the kingdom will be able to expose the perpetrators of that heinous crime and confront the terrorist acts that are condemned strongly and effectively by Islam and the whole world. It is also confident that Saudi Arabia will remain an oasis of security, stability, and peace, thanks to its wise leadership and the support of its people.

The source said: The UAE reiterates that these heinous methods will not undermine the national gains and achievements realized by the Gulf Cooperation Council states during the past decades and urges all council states, sisterly Arab countries, and the international community to pool their efforts to work firmly for eliminating all forms of terrorism whatever its motives might be. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Yemen: House Speaker Phones Saudi Prince Sultan, Condemns Blast

JN2706195596 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, telephoned His Highness Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general last night. He expressed to his highness his condemnation and denunciation of the explosion which took place in Saudi Arabia Tuesday [25 June] evening. He conveyed to his excellency the Yemeni people's condolences to the brothers in Saudi Arabia—king, government, and people—on the victims of this criminal incident, wishing the wounded and injured speedy recovery.

His Highness Prince Sultan expressed thanks and appreciation for these brotherly sentiments, saying they prove the deep relations between the two brotherly peoples.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Radio—U.S. Should Seriously Consider Leaving Saudi Arabia

JN2706192696 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] News media reported that the Saudi Government allocated 10 million riyals for anyone who provides information about the perpetrators of the explosion that targeted a U.S military compound. Although Arab and international media branded the incident as an act of terrorism, more then three organizations that oppose the Saudi ruling regime claimed responsibility for it. This leads to many questions, including: Can terrorism be divided by characterizing a certain type of its operations as non-terrorist and others as terrorist? Second, do the Arab people in the Peninsula and the Gulf want U.S. presence, as the Western propaganda machines claim? Third, how capable is the United States in coping with such operations — should they continue — especially since the organizations that claimed responsibility asserted that they would pursue the same approach until the U.S. troops leave?

To answer these questions, we say that terrorism is rejected in all its forms and that all people in the world hate terrorism. The strange thing, however, is that the United States, which calls this incident an act of terrorism, practices the ugliest kinds of terrorism against the people of the world. The best evidence of this is the death of one million Iraqi children because of the U.S. blockade.

Terrorism must be fought from all directions. The United States should not disregard the ugly Zionist crimes against our Arab people in Palestine, Lebanon, and elsewhere. The Zionist entity tried to reshuffle the cards by using the word terrorism when it linked the murder of three occupation troops in the West Bank to the explosion in Saudi Arabia in a bid to win Western support to practice more terrorism against our people in Palestine.

As for the acceptance of the U.S. presence by our Arab people in the Gulf, this operation, as well as the previous one six months ago against a U.S. military training site in Riyadh, sends a very eloquent message to the U.S. Administration to seriously consider leaving the land of Arab holy places. Our people reject occupation and all kinds of interference under whatever cover.

The U.S. Administration has a chance to leave. If it thinks it can cope with such operations, then it should send more coffins to Saudi Arabia because no one can guess what the future has in store for it.

Iraq: U.S. 'Insistence' on Removing UN's Butrus-Ghali Assailed

JN2806102296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ asserts that the U.S. insistence on removing the UN secretary general from his post has several political motives.

In a commentary published today, the paper says: The prevailing norm is that the UN secretary general assumes his post for two consecutive terms. The U.S. Administration, however, insists on violating this norm by emphasizing that it will veto Butrus-Ghali's nomination for a second term.

AL-'IRAQ adds: The United States feels that Butrus-Ghali no longer abides by the line it tried to draw for him in its capacity as an influential and dominating power at the United Nations. This position proceeds from U.S. considerations related to the international hegemony of the United States.

The paper says: The U.S. Administration was not satisfied with Butrus-Ghali's role when the hostile U.S. forces stormed Somalia and when they left this country disappointed and defeated. The paper points out that Butrus-Ghali's position on the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina was different from that of the United States which accused him of being behind the failure of its policy in that region.

AL-'IRAQ says: The basic reason for the U.S. position on Butrus-Ghali lies in the results of the international committee's investigation into the Zionist aggression on the UN employees in Qana and in the Zionist justification which was rejected by the international community except the U.S. Administration. This U.S. position means entrenching the policy of double standards.

The paper adds: The agreement signed by Iraq and The United Nations, which indicated Dr. Butrus-Ghali's success in his post, was another reason for the U.S. insistence to remove him.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ asserts that this U.S. interference is a serious precedent in the United Nations' history, constants, and traditions, and is also a flagrant interference in the freedom and independence of the international position.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: TV Observes Baghdad 1993 Raid Anniversary

JN2706185296 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Announcer-read over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] At dawn on 26 June 1993, the U.S. Administration added another crime to its record, which is full of crimes against the Iraqi people. The crime was a cowardly, treacherous aggression targeting residential areas and civilian installations in Baghdad, displaying the U.S. Administration's blind hatred of Iraq and the Arab nation.

At 0140 on that day, the hostile U.S. forces fired from their warships in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf cruise missiles on the al-Mansur and al-Ma'mun residential districts in Baghdad, showing their persistence in inflicting the heaviest possible losses on the great Iraqi people to undermine their will and determination to continue the march of scientific and cultural progress and advancement and their splendid achievements in the reconstruction and rebuilding campaigns. That aggression, which was a continuation of the 17 January 1991 U.S.-Zionist military aggression against Iraq, resulted in the martyrdom of a number of citizens and the injury of many others, including women and children. Houses and civilian property and installations were heavily damaged.

On the same day, the Revolution Command Council issued a statement which described the U.S. aggression as a lowly and cowardly aggression the American rulers tried to justify by fabricating a ridiculous story about an attempt to assassinate Bush. That story was fabricated by the U.S. Administration and its agents with the aim of continuing the aggression against Iraq.

The cowardly act was met with the strong denunciation and condemnation it deserved. Good and fair voices were heard throughout the world, even inside the United States itself, in condemnation of that aggression. (Graham Golden), former official at the Central Intelligence Agency, admitted that. He said President Bill Clinton was motivated by flimsy personal motives to launch his new raid on Baghdad.

The aggression revealed the soundness and accuracy of the analysis of the Iraqi leadership and people about the dangers of the so-called new world order which aims to impose U.S. hegemony on the peoples of the world to humiliate them, control their destinies, and loot their wealth.

The Iraqis met the second aggression and the unfair blockade, which is another link in the chain of the colonialist-Zionist scheme, with their known firmness and unwavering resolve. They continued their great jihad to reconstruct what the evil ones have destroyed and to launch a new reconstruction campaign to elevate the edifice of great Iraq, led by mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. With the help of God, the resolve of their leader, and their immortal sacrifices, the Iraqi people managed to score great achievements, relying on their own efforts. They accomplished this within an exceptionally short time period, despite the circumstances of the aggression and the unfair blockade. Leading those achievements are the Saddam River, the two-tier Leader Bridge, and other achievements that will remain a living example of the greatness of the Iraqi people and their ability to create, innovate, defeat the impossible, and continue their cultural and human role.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Netanyahu Says Relationship With U.S. 'Unconditional'

TA2806130396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 28 Jun 96 p 2, 3, 26

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 27 June]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [YEDI'OT AHARONOT] [passage omitted] Netanyahu had his own reasons to be disappointed with the U.S. team. Dennis Ross invested tremendous efforts in an attempt to temper the Arab statements at the Cairo summit. He asked Netanyahu to send reassuring messages to Cairo. The Arabs will reciprocate in kind, Ross promised.

As it turned out, the harder Ross tried, the more radical were the positions adopted by the Arabs — especially the Egyptians and the Syrians. The peace process, Ross' and Christopher's lifework, is collapsing. The most important thing to do now is not to promote the process but to douse the flames.

[Netanyahu] There is no political rift between Israel and the U.S. Administration. The impression I received from Christopher is quite the opposite. My talk with Clinton yesterday strengthened my opinion. Clinton is prepared to cooperate on all levels of our relations.

Perhaps some people are discovering that their views are not being accepted. They expected the United States to twist Israel's arm. It would not have worked in any event; however, there is no such intention anyway. The administration intends to do the exact opposite.

This relationship is unconditional. People accustomed to confrontations find it strange. We do not seek a confrontation with any party. The United States has also gone through changes over the past few years. We share a mutual problem, the old-new scourge of terrorism. This is not a gimmick. It is not a public relations tool. We can bolster our ties with the United States over the next few years.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] In the past, you demanded that the U.S. Embassy be relocated to Jerusalem. Republican candidate Bob Dole enthusiastically supported this demand. What will you say to Dole and Clinton with regard to this matter?

[Netanyahu] I would welcome such a move. I am consistent.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What do you think about THE NEW YORK TIMES' calling you "the man of the three noes."

[Netanyahu] I prefer to call myself "the man of the three yeses": yes to a united Jerusalem; yes to peace with the Golan Heights; and yes to coexistence with the Palestinians. Incidentally, not all the U.S. press called me that. The U.S. press, much like the Israeli press, is not of one opinion.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] In the interviews he gave this week, Netanyahu suggested that we acquaint ourselves with his political views by reading his books. We reminded him that his latest book, "A Place Under the Sun," called for holding peace negotiations only with democratic regimes and claimed that the PLO is planning to destroy Israel in stages. We asked Netanyahu whether these were his positions today as well.

[Netanyahu] The PLO is going through some internal processes. Some of them involve substantive changes while others are merely tactical. We must make sure that the process of substantive change is completed. The partial revocation of the Palestinian Charter was a step in the right direction. They must continue and internalize their recognition of Israel's existence.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What is your opinion of Egypt's behavior?

[Netanyahu] I am disappointed with Egypt's recent behavior, especially at the Cairo summit. Egypt is the cornerstone of peace. I am interested in strengthening relations with Egypt. I hope to establish excellent relations with President Mubarak. I hope that what happened in Cairo was a passing phenomenon.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Among other things, Cairo is demanding that Israel open its nuclear installations to international supervision.

[Netanyahu] I am aware of the Egyptian demand. We have a different position. Our stance on this issue is known, and it is identical to that taken by all previous Israeli governments.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Don't you fear that the entire Muslim world — led by Iran, Syria, and Iraq, and including Egypt — may now unite to fight Israel?

[Netanyahu] I do not believe that they will unite. There are too many conflicts of interest. Blocs are being formed, however, and this is definitely not good. We are talking about long-term developments which started during the tenure of the previous government. We want to preserve our existing accomplishments, and the United States has a leading role to play in that. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Official To Raise DPRK Launchers to Egypt in Talks With CIA Chief

TA2506142996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p A6

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, who is slated to head Israel's National Security Council, was scheduled to meet in Paris yesterday with CIA Director John Deutch. One of the issues on the agenda is North Korea supplying new missile launchers to Egypt.

The meeting between the two men was set some time ago to discuss the possible sale of U.S. satellites to Arab countries, but in coordination with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay it was decided to raise the issue of Egypt's procurement of offensive weapons in the meeting.

The supply of the missile launchers was uncovered by the CIA and initial details about the affair were reported by THE WASHINGTON TIMES and another local paper. The cooperation between North Korea and Egypt in the development of Scud missiles is not new and even preceded the cooperation between North Korea and Syria.

Israel has known for a long time that Egypt manufactures Scud-B missiles with North Korean assistance, but has abstained from raising the subject in public. On the other hand, it criticized relations between Syria and North Korea.

Israel approached Washington to intercede with North Korea and get them to stop selling ground-to-ground missiles to the Middle East. This fits with Washington's policy of opposing the proliferation of missiles with a range exceeding 150 km. The efforts have proved in vain. Although there have been delays in the delivery of various shipments to Syria and Iran, the deals have gone ahead.

According to a recent spate of reports in the United States, Egypt has stepped up its procurement of missiles. In addition to getting equipment and metal to expand its Scud-B production line, it closed a deal with North Korea to acquire mobile launchers for the Scuds.

The Americans found that the deal starts in Eastern Europe, in Slovakia among other countries, where the trucks on which the launchers are installed are purchased. The trucks are shipped to North Korea and once the work is done they are sent to Egypt. The number of launchers Egypt wants to buy is unknown.

The deals aroused concern in the Israeli defense establishment. They prove that Egypt invests a great deal of money in purchasing patently offensive weapons systems. While acting against the military agreement between Israel and Turkey, Egypt has been investing profusely to develop patently offensive weapons.

The existence of such an offensive capability would be considered a threat if a radical Muslim regime rose to power in Egypt or if the peace process collapses. This is one of the issues which will probably be discussed in talks between Washington and Cairo. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is scheduled to visit Cairo this week, while Egyptian President Husni Mubarak plans to visit Washington in July.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay were briefed on Egypt's offensive procurement, and decided to take advantage of the 'Ivri-Deutch meeting to raise the issue. It was reported in Israel that 'Ivri left for France to visit an arms show, but his meeting with Deutch was not mentioned.

A Israel-U.S. understanding about banning high-resolution photographs over Israel by U.S. commercial satellites, which would be sold to foreign elements, was the original issue scheduled to feature in the meeting. The Americans also have demands from Israel about the Ofeq satellite and an agreement about it was supposed to be closed this week, after coordinating the details with Deutch.

Israel: IAEC Denies Egyptian Report on Building of Third Reactor

TA2506172496 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p A12

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel Atomic Energy Commission [IAEC] yesterday denied a report that appeared in an Egyptian weekly, stating that Israel is making preparations for the construction of a third nuclear project, 25 km from the border with Egypt.

The above-mentioned report was published in ROSE AL-YUSUF on 23 June. The weekly received the details from an expert at the Egyptian atomic energy authority. The Egyptian expert also warned about possible pollution hazards due to the Israeli nuclear reactor's proximity to the border.

In reaction the IAEC said: "The report is not true. Israel is not currently constructing a nuclear power plant. The Energy Ministry is in charge of examining locations for the construction of nuclear reactors in Israel, while in effect, the Electric Corporation has been made responsible for such projects. The IAEC's licensing department, which is responsible for licensing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and safety, has been studying the findings of surveys that have been carried out in the Shivta area since the 1980's. All this while complying fully with international criteria."

Israel: Weizman, Egyptian Envoy Discuss Bilateral Relations

TA2706125796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman received Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, this morning and discussed Israeli-Egyptian relations, the peace process, and the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Israel.

Ambassador Basyuni said that during the meeting he and the president dwelt on all the issues relating to bilateral relations with the aim of clearing the air in light of the criticism leveled by the Israeli political leadership at Egypt against the background of the results of the expanded Arab summit that was held in Cairo.

Israel: Levi — Israel Opposes Dictates; Egypt Should Avoid Pressure

TA2606155996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that the majority of the people in Israel, left and right, reject attempts to dictate preconditions to Israel, as expressed in Cairo summit. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in his first political speech at the Knesset Foreign Minister Levi said the government intends to talk to the Palestinian Authority [PA] about the permanent arrangement. The government is not interested in embarrassing or disqualifying the PA, but in promoting the arrangements.

As for Egypt, Foreign Minister Levi said that the remarks by President Mubarak's aide that Cairo will wait eight weeks for Israel's reply indicates that Egypt intends to hold a tough political line against Israel at the UN Security Council meeting that will be held at that time. He called on Egypt to navigate the negotiations in a calmly, free of pressures and dictates.

Israel: IDF Sources Say Gunmen May Have Fled to PA's Jericho

TA2806075896 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Steve Rodan and JERUSALEM POST Staff]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Senior security sources said last night the gunmen who ambushed and killed three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers near the Jordan River on Wednesday [26 June] are suspected of fleeing to nearby Jericho, where they are being given shelter by Palestinian terrorists.

The sources said that after an exhaustive search by IDF and Jordanian helicopters and troops, military commanders of both countries have concluded that the gunmen did not flee to Jordan. The ambush on the security road near Moshav Na'aran, north of Jericho, is believed to have been carried out by two or three attackers.

An IDF source involved in the investigation says one assessment is the attackers left the Palestinian Authority [PA]-controlled enclave in Jericho, crossed the Jordan River, and then returned into Israeli territory to carry out the ambush. [passage omitted]

Officials said that despite the change in Israel's government, coordination between Israeli and Palestinian security services remains high.

"As long as the search is going on we're not going to make public any request to the PA," one source said.

Israel authorities are also investigating the possibility that the attackers are former or current Palestinian Police officers.

A security sources said this suspicion arises from the Kalashnikov assault rifles and explosives the gunmen left at the scene of the ambush, equipment that might have been removed from a Jericho armory. [passage omitted]

Israel: IDF Changes Orders on Opening Fire in Territories

TA2806070996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has changed its orders on opening fire in the territories, it was stated in High Court of Justice deliberations on an appeal by a reserve soldier.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the soldier claimed in the appeal that in a briefing he was given he was prohibited from shooting at Palestinian policemen — even if his life is endangered — unless they open fire at him first. The prosecution responded that the orders have been changed and that the soldier is now permitted to open fire when he feels a Palestinian policeman is endangering his life, which led the appellant to withdraw his appeal. Justice Aharon Baraq, president of the High Court of Justice, agreed to Qol Yisra'el's request to broadcast part of the prosecution's response.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Air Force Commander Says Small Chance for War in Near Future

TA2006175596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Long-range missiles can become a threat to Israel's existence, Air Force commander Herzl Budinger said. He added that the chance of war in the near future is small, but that if war breaks out the danger will be great. He said the situation in south Lebanon has not changed since Operation Grapes of Wrath. Major General Budinger held a news conference on the occasions of Air Force Day and his retirement from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Maj. Gen. Budinger said that the Arab states have hundreds of missiles, which would enable them to reach any point in Israel.

[Budinger] I would first like to refer to the missiles you noted by saying that they are not necessarily no threat to our existence. The damage they can cause depends on the quantity and quality of the missiles and not necessarily on nonconventional warheads. A very large number of missiles when launched at specific locations, especially inhabited areas, over years and not over a short period, can create a situation where Israelis may decide that Israel is no longer a safe place for Jews to live. If that should happen it would become a threat to Israel's existence. These surface-to- surface missiles are the most significant change in the present era, since for the first time since the War of Independence they enable all the states surrounding us to hit any point they chose inside Israel.

[Menashe] If there are nonconventional nuclear warheads in the future it would totally change the type of threat, Gen. Budinger said, stressing that the threat should be dealt with in a broad coalition.

[Budinger] I would say with certainty that the chance of war breaking out in the near future has diminished, but if a war does break out the risk will grow because of the destructive power of the weapons.

[Menashe] The Air Force must come up with answers since it is the country's strategic deterrent arm, and it improves in this task all the time.

[Budinger] In recent years, the Air Force greatly improved its ability to reach far distances, not only pinpointed targets such as the nuclear reactor in Baghdad or the PLO headquarters in Tunis, but also to operate simultaneously against a greater number of distant targets, to function around the clock, and in some cases in restricted weather conditions. That capability is due to improve further in the coming years. Those are the significant changes that have taken place.

[Menashe] Since Operation Grapes of Wrath there has not been any change in the security zone. The terrorists continue to operate there and are situated in the same locations. What has changed, but has to be tested over time, is that Hizballah is not launching katyushas and the IDF is not shelling civilian areas. [end recording]

Israel: Hebron Settlers Present Mordekhay With Memorandum on Views

TA2706091196 (Internet) Hebron Today in English 26 Jun 96

["News from the Hebron Press Office"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Defense Yitzhaq Mordekhay spent several hours in Hebron-Qiryat Arba'. He spent the first part of the visit learning first-hand the problems facing the Jewish Community of Hebron if redeployment should occur. He later met with leaders of Hebron-Qiryat Arba'.

At the meeting, Hebron's No'am Arnon outlined the stand of the Jewish Community. Among the points mentioned were: 1. There be no withdrawal from any area of Hebron 2. Civil autonomy under Israeli rule be implemented in Hebron. 3. No armed forces other than the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] be allowed in Hebron. 4. Changes be made in the present status of Cave of the Patriarchs. Among those changes is a request to allow Jews access to 'Ohel Yitzhaq' (The Isaac Hall) on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. 5. Prayer and visits be allowed at all Jewish holy sites in Hebron, including Qever Avner Ben-Ner and the Cave of 'Otni'el Ben-Qnaz. Uri Ari'el, the chairman of the Yesha' [Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza] council told the Minister that 'Hebron is in the soul of every Jew.' He also demanded an immediate end to the building freeze in Yesha'.

Mordekhay listened carefully and said little. He told of being very moved when being greeted at the gates of Qiryat Arba', because one of the participants was Mazal Partush, widow of Yehuda Partush, killed by terrorists outside Qiryat Arba' a year ago.

The following letter was presented to Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay at the meeting: Shalom and blessings from the city of the Forefathers. The aim of this memorandum is to express our opinion on the main subjects concerning the steps to be taken in Hebron, in order to ensure the peace, security and welfare of its citizens.

1. Redeployment: The continued presence of the IDF in all areas of Hebron is imperative to maintain security and normal life for all residents of the city. It should be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stressed that Hebron is a city in which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is dominant. Any withdrawal or removal of the IDF from any area of the city is liable to create, in that section, a terrorist nest which might act in Hebron or other areas of the country.

2. PLO Army: Any allowance of PLO police or soldiers, carrying any type of arms, will cause terrorists to flow into the city. Experience has taught us that there is absolutely no ability to control their numbers or the weapons they carry. Therefore, we express our opposition to any presence of PLO police or soldiers.

3. The Military Compound: The military compound is located on a hill overlooking most of Hebron. Transfer of this building to the Palestinian Authority [PA] will allow the PA control and security supremacy. Transfer of the building would have a tremendous moral effect and could change the entire atmosphere in the city. This will effect the motivation of the Arabs and could cause an increase in terror attacks, aiming at causing the expulsion of Jews from the city. We therefore object to any transfer of the Military compound to the PA, in any way, shape or form.

4. The Holy Places: The previous government placed serious restrictions on prayer and visits to holy sites, where Jews had been allowed to go for thousands of years. Among them, Qever Avner Ben- Ner, the Cave of 'Otni'el Ben-Qnaz, the Tomb of Rut and Yishay. We request the immediate opening of all holy sites to Jewish worship and to lift the restrictions presently binding.

5. Freedom of movement: In any agreement, it is obligatory to protect the rights of Jews to be able to travel freely throughout Hebron, securely. This includes the basic right to be able to purchase land and property, and to be allowed to receive building permits from the Israeli authorities.

6. Economic improvements: We recommend measures easing and improving the economic conditions of Hebron's Arab population.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Hilel Horowitz, No'am Arnon — The Jewish Community of Hebron
Avraham Ben Yosef— Director, Hebron Municipality

Israel: Defense Minister Tours Hebron, Meets Mayor, Settlers

TA2606135296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay toured the Hebron area today and met with Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah and settler leaders. The minister told our correspondent Gay Qotev that, in principle, the government wants to honor agreements, but the special security problems in Hebron disturb it and any mistake or unnecessary risk might cost us dearly.

After meeting the defense minister, Mayor al-Natshah said he believes the Israeli Government will make its decision on the redeployment in Hebron within a week. He stressed that if it is not implemented, the peace process would stop.

Al-Natshah asked the defense minister to reduce the scope of the closure and introduce commercial solutions. Minister Mordekhay responded that the issue will be examined.

Uri Ari'el, head of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, said after the meeting with the defense minister that he and his friends are certain that the prime minister and the defense minister will keep the promises they made before the elections.

Israel: Hebron Evacuation Seen as 'Too Easy' Test for Netanyahu

TA2606153796 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p B1

[Commentary by Ran Kislev: "The Hebron Puzzle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Saturday, a group of Israeli reporters toured Hebron at the invitation of Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah. The idea was to present the problems from the Palestinian point of view. The tour was organized, upon the mayor's request, by Uri Avneri of the Peace Bloc, but it would be hard to say that the group (some 50-60 people) was politically homogeneous or that there was an intention to demonstrate anything.

Regardless of what the mayor said in his speech at the city hall, the tour was a big propaganda success. The Israeli group walked the crowded streets undisturbed, and the locals even showed signs of friendliness. The atmosphere, however, was clearly of a foreign town belonging to the Palestinian state in the making. There were Palestinian flags and posters of candidates from the recent election campaign there, the market was packed, and there were traffic jams, but there was not a single Israeli soldier in sight.

This is the way it was throughout the area designated Area A (under the Palestinian Authority jurisdiction) which, according to the agreement, covers some 90 percent of Hebron's territory. Only when the group approached the area that the maps mark as Area C (which is to be under the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] control), did things change. Suddenly, hundreds of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Border Policemen and IDF soldiers appeared. Their job was to prevent the Israeli reporters from having any contact with the Jewish residents of Hebron, of all people. From that moment on, the reporters were tightly guarded, not necessarily against the Palestinians, but to prevent them from sneaking into Bet Hadassah, Bet Romano, or the Avraham Avinu Synagogue, God forbid.

It is not clear who gave the security forces those strange orders and what their purpose was, but they were beneficial from several aspects. They made it clear to the visitors that, in fact, Hebron is already divided, and that all that is left to be done is give the situation an official seal of approval.

The absence of IDF soldiers throughout most of Hebron has already revived the city's independence, contrary to the area where large numbers of soldiers surrounded the settlers' homes. This will not change after the agreement is implemented. The impossible puzzle of the division of the city, which was so well portrayed that day by the IDF guards and which breaks the city of 200,000 residents into two and disrupts its daily life, will not change either.

So what is holding up the implementation of the agreement? Surely not security problems. As it is, the IDF is not in control of most of the Arab parts of Hebron. It would only be beneficial if the Palestinian police were to take the IDF's place there. The settlers will not be less safe in their well guarded ghetto, although it is impossible to make sure they will be a lot safer. Eventually, even inside Area C, several hundred Jewish settlers will remain surrounded by thousands of Arabs (40,000 according to the mayor; 20,000 according to the IDF).

Also, it is not the pragmatic approach to security in the city which is holding up the implementation of the Oslo B arrangement in Hebron (such an approach dictates only one solution: removing the settlers from the city). It is being delayed due to ideology and prestige — the ideology of the settlers, who claim they own the entire city; and the prestige of the government, that cannot backtrack from one of the promises it made during the election campaign so soon after winning the elections.

It may be assumed that the new government will officially implement the arrangement in Hebron before long. It will not be doing so because it is really and truly careful about executing agreements made by the previous government, but because there is no reason not to officially acknowledge the situation that already exists on the ground. Furthermore, sending the IDF back to Hebron — which already feels liberated — would be the same as sending the troops back to Gaza or Nabulus.

At the same time, implementing the Hebron arrangements should not be viewed as a crucial test for the willingness of Netanyahu's government to continue on the road to peace. This test is too easy.

Israel: POST Says Time To Expose Syria's 'Terrorist' Face

TA2706104896 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jun 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Twin-Headed Serpent"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As if on cue, following Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's attack on Syria for harboring terrorist splinter groups in Damascus, one of those splinters — Abu-Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha] Palestine National Liberation Organization — claimed responsibility for yesterday's murderous unprovoked attack on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Jordan Valley.

If anyone doubted that the terrorist fanatics of the Middle East were still active, Tuesday's horrendous truck bombing that killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds of people at the U.S. Air Force complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, should further dispel such illusions. The explosion brought back the nightmare of the 1983 truck bomb in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. Marines, also at a military barracks.

The two attacks were also a timely reminder that terrorists keep their promises, and those who harbor or arm them are as guilty as the perpetrators. The Moslem fundamentalist underground in Saudi Arabia (the Combatant Partisans of God) had vowed revenge for the beheading of the four terrorists recently found guilty of bombing the U.S. military center in Riyadh last November. Hizballah and the lunatic Palestinian fringe in Damascus have likewise been promising to accelerate their attacks on Israel.

The attackers who struck near Jericho, killing three IDF soldiers and wounding two others, clearly came from Jordan, yet no blame can be directed at Amman beyond whatever security lapse allowed the infiltrators to reach Israel from Jordan via Syria. Jordanian troops swiftly joined the IDF in combing the border to find the terrorists, and King Husayn promptly called Netanyahu to express his condolences and support. He correctly blamed those who aimed to sabotage the peaceful border between Israel and Jordan, and it was clear he meant his troublemaking northern neighbor.

If the Palestinian Authority's enthusiasm for rooting out terrorism was a fraction of Jordan's, all the people in this region — Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians — could forge a formidable security wall against the criminal

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sponsors of violent mischief in Damascus and Tehran. It should be obvious to all Arab leaders — as it is to Israelis — that Damascus would like nothing better than to subvert all borders on all fronts, for this is a regime that hates all its neighbors, be they Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis or occupied Lebanese.

The twin-headed serpent behind virtually all recent terrorism is the unholy alliance of Iran and Syria. Shiite eastern Saudi Arabia, of which Dhahran is the main city, has always been a fertile breeding ground for Iranian subversion, just as the Shiite community in Bahrain across the causeway from Dhahran has spawned an unprecedented wave of Iranian-backed terrorism this year in the formerly peaceful emirate.

It is depressing that although it is repeatedly noted that Syrian-Iranian terrorism is the fundamental threat facing all states in this region — and to Western interests here and beyond — it still seems impossible to forge a strategic alliance to combat it. Last weekend's Arab summit wasted its time griping about Israel, as usual, and, almost as disturbing, the European Union summit in Florence passed a nasty little resolution attacking the United States for its plans to sanction firms doing business with the Middle East's outlaw states — Iran, Iraq and Libya. If enlightened and democratic Europe cannot be persuaded to wage all-out war on the sponsors of terror, what can be expected of the feeble and strife-ridden sheiks, kings and dictators of the Arab League?

The Sharm al-Shaykh conference earlier this year, following the four terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, Ashqelon and Tel Aviv, was a glimmer of hope that has fizzled out. The promised follow-up conference in Luxembourg, where it was hoped the Europeans would join Arab moderates, America and Israel in putting real muscle into a joint onslaught on terrorism, never convened. The Arab League summit returned that ineffectual and unholy alliance of terrorist and moderate states to the tried and tired old path of Israel- bashing. It could have chosen to acknowledge publicly that Netanyahu's alleged "hard line" vis-a-vis negotiations could also have a positive impact when viewed as an even harder line against those who are enemies of Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt, Algeria and the Gulf states no less than they are enemies of Israel.

The treaties with Jordan and Egypt should be a clear message to all moderate Arab states that Israel doesn't care what type of government rules a neighboring state as long as it is not a terrorist regime. It is Syria's terrorism that has shown the "Syrian track" to be nothing more than a tangled undergrowth of violent and deceitful machinations. Hafiz al-Asad had his chance to deal with the most amenable and friendly Israeli government he could have wished to face. He still could not cut a deal, nor moderate his vicious attitudes, nor disengage himself from his Iranian mullah friends. The time has come for his mask of "peace partner" to be stripped off. The face of terrorism beneath must be consigned to the isolated den of Middle Eastern pariahs under international censure and sanctions.

Israel: Netanyahu Advisers Hazoni, Gold Profiled

TA2706053196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM REPORT in English 11 Jul 96 pp 22, 23, 24

[Article by Leslie Susser: "Rise of the Back-Room Boys"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yoram Hazoni and Dore Gold became firm friends over pretzels and tuna at the 1991 Madrid peace conference. "I brought the tuna," recalls Hazoni, "and he brought the pretzels." Both had become observant Jews in their 20's at university; in Madrid, they shared their kosher food.

That's not all they have in common. Both grew up in America, hold Phd's in political science from U.S. universities and had been invited to the conference by then deputy foreign minister Binyamin (Bibi) Netanyahu, himself a product of the American university system. More importantly: Today Hazoni and Gold share a conservative political philosophy, have the new prime minister's ear and are set to play crucial roles in shaping Netanyahu's new, more nationalistic Israel.

Although Netanyahu's coalition partners spent the three weeks after the May 29 elections bickering and negotiating furiously to maximize their cabinet status, the reformed electoral system is expected to reduce ministerial power and boost the heft of the Prime Minister's Office. With Netanyahu far more than a mere first among equals, back-room advisers like Hazoni and Gold are bound to be immensely influential.

Like Netanyahu, the lean, bespectacled Hazoni, 32, was born in Israel and went to the U.S. as a child because of a career move by an academic father, a physics professor at Princeton. By his early teens, he says, he was a convert to American-style neo-conservatism and a COMMENTARY subscriber. An Israel visit in the early 80's, before starting studies at Princeton, with time spent at Elon More — the first foothold of the Gush Emunim settlement movement in Samaria — added a Jewish religious and nationalist dimension.

Hazoni first met Netanyahu just before Madrid in the fall of 1991. The deputy foreign minister was looking for someone to help him write a book on Israel and the Zionist vision. JERUSALEM POST editor David Bar-Ilan — himself now slated as Netanyahu's top media

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

adviser — suggested Hazoni, who was then working with him as an editorial assistant. Hazoni and Netanyahu hit it off immediately.

Recalls Hazoni: "I suggested that, since he is so good on his feet, he should speak, give speeches, and I'd transcribe them. Then we would go over it, I would add research, and we'd edit it taking out whatever wasn't good. At the end of the first day, we had 15 pages of text." The result was Netanyahu's "A Place Among the Nations: Israel and the World," and, later, a second collaboration, "Fighting Terror."

Despite his input, Hazoni insists both books are entirely Netanyahu's. "The ideas are completely his, and no matter what people here think, Bibi is a voracious reader and a true intellectual."

Hazoni then worked with Netanyahu in the Knesset as an adviser to the newly-elected opposition leader in 1993. That role suited him less. "Day-to-day political advising is not my forte," he concedes.

Long-term political thinking is. And luckily for him Ronald Lauder, the millionaire part-owner of Estee Lauder beauty products and a long-time supporter of Netanyahu's, had an idea. Soon after the 1993 Rabin-'Arafat handshake, he approached Hazoni about setting up and running a right-wing think tank.

The result was the Shalem Center for National Policy, with its dozen staffers and many more outside experts. Hazoni says he sees his role as providing ideas and research for politicians regardless of their affiliation, and notes that besides the Likud, he has worked with people from Labor, the centrist Third Way, the religious parties, and Natan Sharansky's Yisra'el Ba'aliya. "We're happy to work with anyone who wants to work with us," says Hazoni, "and unhappy to take orders from anybody."

Still, the center is situated in the same building as the Jerusalem branch of the Likud, and about a third of the almost $1-million annual budget comes from Netanyahu's friend Lauder. Moreover, the thrust of its research has been to embarrass Labor and to further right-wing causes. Three key papers attacked a failed Labor initiative to tax capital gains, argued for a special majority in a referendum on the Golan's future, and alleged a pro-Labor bias in the electronic media.

Hazoni's goal, though, was always more ambitious than embarrassing Labor. He seeks to create the philosophical underpinning for a rejuvenated Zionist nationalism. His hope is to wean the intellectual elite away from what he calls Labor's "post- Zionist culture," which sees as its goal Israel's secularization and emergence as a "normal" state with universal humanistic values. Against this he posits a countervailing culture of a proudly nationalistic Israel, with a fiercely free market economy and predominantly "Jewish education." There was cultural wasteland on the right, he says, which allowed a leftist, post-Zionist penetration at all levels of Israeli culture. It is the struggle against the "post-Zionist malaise" that he hopes Netanyahu will lead, using the bully pulpit of the prime ministership.

Of course, what Hazoni sees as the cure, his left-wing opponents would describe as a disease: narrow, blinkered, xenophobic nationalism that makes a clash with the Arab world and the international community almost a self-fulfilling prophecy. Moreover, they point to?the internal contradiction between his libertarian espousal of freedom of choice in all spheres and the authoritarian imposition of Jewish culture through control of the state education system. Hazoni reports that he is for free choice in education, too, and claims that all he wants is that the different educational systems available in Israel should include a conservative, Jewish nationalist stream. At its apex he would like to see what he calls a "Zionist university," which would compete with the "humanistic universities on the left" and the yeshivas on the religious right.

Dore Gold spent a year at one of those religious seminaries — Hamivtar Yeshiva in Jerusalem — in the mid 70's; soon after, he made aliyah. But Gold, who was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, and became Orthodox only while studying at Columbia, says his relatively hawkish foreign policy positions stem as much from his strategic studies as from a neo-conservative political philosophy. Rather than a Gush Emunim nationalist, he speaks as a security-minded analyst who happens to wear a yarmulke.

It was as a scholar at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies that Gold, now 43, came to Netanyahu's attention in 1989, summoned by the then-deputy foreign minister to analyze an important policy speech by incoming U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. It marked the start of a lasting collaboration.

While not as upbeat about peacemaking as his Labor predecessors, Gold wants to drive home the point that if there is a real chance for peace, the new regime will not miss it.

The new leaders are not the extremists some people have been trying to make them out to be, he says. Indeed, Gold notes that he and Netanyahu have had extensive contacts with Arab interlocutors before. "It's not as if sitting down with Arab partners is something new for Netanyahu. There is a lot of mutual respect, especially on the Jordanian track."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Gold sets great store by his own meetings with Arabs. These largely secret contacts began a few months before the 1991 Madrid peace conference and have been going on ever since at regular 3-monthly intervals. The meetings, mostly of academics and military men, Gold says, have given him new insights and perspectives "you can't get any other way."

So is Peres' New Middle East possible with the Likud after all? Gold says the opportunities today outweigh the risks. But he talks of 25-30 year cycles from conflict to stability, in which power politics cease temporarily, paving the way for more rational approaches. "So I prefer to speak of a different Middle East, rather than a new Middle East. Because it's only part of a cycle. It's not the end of Middle Eastern history or the end of competition and struggle in the region."

So far, Gold has been disappointed at Arab reactions to the new government, especially the Palestinians'. "They shouldn't use language that undermines the negotiating climate. For example, 'Arafat's threat to declare a Palestinian state unilaterally, which would be the ultimate violation of the Oslo peace accords."

The Oslo process will continue, Gold says, but on a new basis of reciprocity. If the Palestinians want it to go ahead, they must curb terror. And that is his message to the Syrians too. "It is intolerable that they should use Hizballah to try to force concessions from Israel. They will have to learn the new rules of the game: that terror and peacemaking don't mix."

Even before the government took office, Gold was Netanyahu's top foreign policy adviser meeting with Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan, phoning Palestinian officials to project calm. Hazoni's role is less defined, but he hopes he'll be writing the prime minister's cultural agenda. The young men of Madrid have become the powerbrokers of the new Jerusalem.

Israel: Police 'Apparently' Recommend Filing Charges Against Eytan

TA2706105196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The police investigation file on Environment and Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan has been transferred to Attorney-General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir, apparently with a recommendation that he be charged for misusing a confidential IDF [Israel Defense Forces] document.

The police spokesman, in a statement, confirmed that the file was turned over to the attorney-general. He refused to comment further.

But police sources said the file included a recommendation that the Tzomet Party leader be charged for using a confidential IDF document that contained incriminating information about a Tzomet activist, to force the activist out of the party.

Eytan was cleared by police of allegations he misused campaign contributions from the 1992 election, according to the sources. The allegations concerning the IDF document also relate to that election campaign.

It is now up to Ben-Ya'ir to decide whether to accept the police recommendations. If he does, he must ask the Knesset to lift Eytan's immunity so he can be indicted.

Israel: Attorney General Clears Eytan of 'Blackmailing' Activist

TA2706155796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The attorney general has cleared Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan of all suspicions of threatening and blackmailing a Tzomet activist and has decided to close the investigation. At the same time he recommended that Eytan be charged with allegedly using military documents. The lesser charge violates the right to privacy law but does not require the lifting of a member of parliament's immunity. A similar charge is to be filed against former minister Gonen Segev and Tzomet members Sami Sheinfeld and Hagay Ashuri.

Israel: Poll Shows Majority Supports Netanyahu Meeting With 'Arafat

TA2806111696 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jun 96 p 3

[Poll carried out by the Dahaf Institute headed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Should the prime minister meet with Yasir 'Arafat in the near future?

Yes, 59 percent; No, 30 percent; No reply, 11 percent.

Should the cabinet complete the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron according to the previous government's agreement with the Palestinian Authority?

Yes, 54 percent; No, 37 percent; No reply, 9 percent. [passage omitted]

The poll was carried out on 26 June among 503 people who represent a representative sample of the adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: SHAS Receives Religious Affairs Portfolio; NRP Protests

TA2706052796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Education Minister Zvulun Hammer has informed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu he is totally opposed to the decision to give the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party the religious affairs portfolio for the first two years of the government's term.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that SHAS was informed by the prime minister's office that its representative would be taking over the Religious Affairs Ministry as of tomorrow and that the National Religious Party [NRP] would gain control of the ministry in two years' time. However, Education Minister Hammer said that the decision runs counter to the NRP's agreement with the Likud.

Israel: Netanyahu Discusses Economic 'Measures,' Budget Cuts

TA2506154396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p A2

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held an economic debate yesterday with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel. The three men started discussing the necessary measures to curb inflation and reduce the deficit in the balance of payments.

At the meeting it was agreed that an effort must be made to confront these problems by cutting government expenditures — and not by raising taxes. A communique published by the prime minister's bureau said: "The prime minister said at the meeting that the two immediate tasks facing the government are curbing inflation and reducing the balance of payments deficit.

"The prime minister said that in order to transform Israel into one of the world's leading economies, government expenditures must be cut. This, in light of the huge deficit which has accumulated in the state budget. At the same time, steps must be taken to stabilize the economy and create the necessary conditions for continuous growth without any excessive increase in the national debt."

The finance minister and Bank of Israel governor informed the prime minister of the need to carry out additional cuts in the 1996 budget. This, in order to eliminate any deviations from the planned budget deficit. It is the assessment of Treasury officials that if the budget is not pared down, there may be a deviation of between one and two billion shekels from the planned budget deficit. According to Bank of Israel estimates, the deviation could grow to over three billion shekels more than the planned deficit. Frenkel stressed the need to set a multiyear target for inflation, in an attempt to reduce the annual inflation rate to between two and three percent within four years.

At the meeting, Meridor explained that the Finance Ministry was examining various alternatives to budget cuts. Among these: reducing child allocations; reducing the government's participation in the employers' national insurance payments; increasing the number of children in classrooms; imposing a health tax on tax-free income; reducing benefits for government-approved industries; and cutting subsidies for public transport.

Officials at the prime minister's bureau said that additional meetings between Netanyahu, Meridor, and Frenkel would take place in the near future in order "to consolidate policy steps and formulate the budget proposal that will be submitted to the cabinet soon."

Israel: Ministers Pressuring Netanyahu To Drop Budget Cuts

TA2806111396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 96 p A7

[Report by Judy Maltz, Reli Sa'ar, and 'Amira Segev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cabinet ministers have began to apply heavy pressure on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor to abandon their plans to carry out deep cuts in the state budget.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay has already declared his intention to demand a budget increment of 850 million shekels for the defense establishment. Public Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani said that he would demand that his ministry's resources be increased.

Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said that not only would he vigorously oppose any cut in the health budget but would also demand additional funds. "I have already heard some worrisome hints to this effect, and I intend to categorically reject them. I have met with the finance minister and clarified the vital importance of the health issue, and I will meet him again prior to the budget deliberations." [passage omitted]

Labor and Welfare Minister Eli Yishay said he would fight any attempt to harm the welfare budget. Yesterday, Levi sent a letter to Netanyahu, Meridor, and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, demanding that representatives of his ministry be allowed to participate in the preliminary discussions on "determining the basic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

strategy of the new economic policy," prior to the cabinet debate on the budget cuts, which is expected to take place on 30 June. [passage omitted]

Science Minister Beni Begin said that reducing his ministry's budget would have a very negative impact on research and development in Israel and he would therefore oppose any proposal submitted by the Treasury to this effect. Begin said that economic theory and practice emphasize investing in human capital and in research and development, noting that these are closely linked to economic growth. Begin expressed his assurance that both the Bank of Israel governor and the finance minister, who support the budget cuts, understand this.

Despite all the above, Netanyahu promised Meridor and Frenkel that he would support any proposal calling for cuts in the state budget.

Israel: International Pressure Behind Plan To Increase Foreign Aid

TA2706092796 (Internet) GLOBES in English 26 Jun 96

[Report by Ora Qoren]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bank of Israel is urging the Treasury and other ministries to gradually increase the foreign aid being granted by Israel to $10 million a year, up to a fixed rate of 0.3% of the GNP, which presently stands at $240 million. This statement came from Gid'on Shor, member of the executive and manager of the foreign liaison department of the Bank of Israel.

In this context, the Bank of Israel is exerting pressure for an Israeli contribution to be forwarded to IDA, the international development agency of the World Bank. This follows international pressure to which Israel has been subjected, to join the states contributing to the organisation, based on international criteria concerning the state of the economy. The expected contribution would amount to an annual $3.5 million over the next three years. After that, aid to IDA will gradually increase up to $9 million per annum.

International pressure on Israel to transfer financing to IDA has been mounting in view of the refusal of the US Congress to forward US aid to the organisation. The US debt to IDA relative to its commitments for the past three years, stands at one billion dollars. IDA has warned Israel that unless she takes part in the granting of aid, she will in future be excluded from the organisation's international tenders. It was also reported that her refusal is liable to have "unpleasant repercussions" on her international standing and economic and political interests.

Israel: Commentator Urges Voluntary Halt to U.S. Economic Aid

TA2806105196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jun 96 p 5

[Commentary by Yosef Goell: "Lessons in Love and Sympathy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The atmosphere surrounding Secretary of State Christopher's visit here this week is an indication that the Clinton administration, which before the election made no secret of its support for Shim'on Peres and his Labor government, is determined to treat Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Likud-religious coalition government very gingerly. Yet the luscious carrot being dangled in front of our eyes shouldn't obscure the big stick the U.S. conceals behind its back. Long-term U.S. policy toward the Arab-Israel conflict and its current peace process phase is clearly at odds with the Greater Land of Israel ideology Netanyahu has espoused during his entire public career. The balance between the American carrot and stick will become more apparent during the premier's visit to Washington next month.

Netanyahu's policy toward the Palestinians and Syrians and the other elements of the diplomatic process with the Arab world will be determined to no little extent by the rapport he establishes with President Clinton and the deal he can work out on the direction and pace of the continuing "peace process." Important as the July meeting between the two leaders is, that rapport — and the deal — will in all likelihood be worked out in detail in a number of meetings over a few months.

The most important task facing the prime minister in preparing for the confrontation that will set the stage for and limits on his policies in the next four years will be overcoming the profound anti-Netanyahu and anti-Likud bias in the U.S. media and public opinion.

It is a task that must be begun now to produce the most effective results in a few months' time.

Two crucial steps that must be taken within a week or two at most are naming an impressive personality — and not some deserving Likud hack — as ambassador to the U.S. and establishing a close personal and working relationship with the leaders of the American Jewish community. The job of influencing American public opinion in favor of a Netanyahu-led Israel cannot be accomplished without the active and enthusiastic cooperation of American Jewry.

Yet the single most vital step I can conceive of in overcoming the anti-Netanyahu bias among the U.S.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

public and in the American media would be an early Israeli initiative to waive continued U.S. economic aid.

How much have we been getting? Some $3 billion a year since the signing of the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt: $ 1.8b. in military aid, and $1.2b. in economic aid.

It's high time we went to the Americans and told them: We are deeply and eternally grateful to you for the tremendous help you have given us over the years. It helped get us through the more difficult stages in our early development.

"There were years when that American aid made all the difference. And, given the gigantic discrepancy in the armed might of our existing and potential Arab enemies, continuation of your military aid is still essential.

"But there is no longer any reason for you — meaning the American taxpayer — to subsidize our standard of living. As you can see, most of our people are doing just fine; we can make it on our own. "So thank you again — but we won't be needing that $1.2b. a year from you in the future."

Aid to Israel and to Egypt (this has been tied to the Israel aid package and runs at over $2b. a year) accounts for well over half of total American aid. It should be obvious that sooner rather than later the Americans will be coming to us regarding a substantial cut in aid.

It would be much wiser for us to act first and waive the continuation of this aid — and we'd be doing the Americans an additional service by helping them reduce their inordinate amount of aid to Egypt.

It is, admittedly, difficult for any democratically elected politician to forgo a big chunk of money. But it must be done for it will be done by the Americans if we don't take the initiative ourselves. And the best time to do it is at the outset of a new government — in other words, now.

One of my earliest political memories as a pre-World War II adolescent in the U.S. was the tremendous wave of public sympathy expressed by the American media and public opinion for the Finns, who had just been invaded by Stalin's Soviet Union.

A good part of that sympathy could be explained by the fact that Finland was the only European country that didn't welsh on its World War I debts to the U.S., but repaid them in full. That honorable behavior spoke to Americans everywhere.

I believe that an Israeli initiative to waive continued U.S. economic support would elicit a similar wave of popular sympathy.

It needs to be done with finesse, but it must be done now.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Prime Minister To Meet Syrian Counterpart 'End of July'

JN2706125096 Amman THE STAR in English 27 Jun-3 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Shakir "Special to THE STAR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A thaw in relations between Jordan and Syria has already begun. Contacts between Jordanian and Syrian officials are now taking place at the highest levels. This is the result of the meetings between His Majesty King Husayn and Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad in the Arab Summit that was held in Cairo early this week.

A meeting is scheduled for the end of July between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and his Syrian counterpart Mahmud al-Zu'bi. This will be preceded by preparatory meetings between Jordanian and Syrian officials concerning security and political issues. Then, a Jordanian Syrian summit will be convened between King Husayn and President al-Asad. The place and date of the summit will be agreed on later but it is thought that it will take place at the end of the summer.

The Star learned that a meeting between King Husayn and President al-Asad took place one day before the summit. This was in the presence of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Three subsequent meetings occurred during the two-day summit.

King Husayn told President Mubarak that he has no personal differences with the Syrian president. However, al-Asad feels that there are other serious matters that need to be settled.

Jordan will do its utmost to see progress on the Syrian-Israeli peace track. Jordan rejects Syrian claims that it signed its peace treaty with Israel without Arab coordination. Jordanian officials also denied Syrian accusations of "running" to sign its peace treaty, since Egypt and the PLO signed peace accords before Jordan. Officials maintain that the Oslo agreement was a surprise for Jordan.

Moreover, there existed secret contacts between Syria and Israel, Jordan official maintains.

Jordanian-Syrian talks during the summit discussed the "51" terrorist attempts in Jordan made by armed men crossing the Syrian border. They planned to assassinate senior officials, hide explosives and attack Israel tourists, it was stressed. President al-Asad denied that his country encouraged such acts and promised to follow up investigations and inform Jordanian officials about the outcome. The security meeting between the two countries is aimed to clear the air.

Syrian officials, in turn, said that Jordan harbors Syrian opposition members who are against the government.

Jordanian officials argued they have no right to act against any Syrian living on Jordanian soil. They stated that Syrian Islamic members had left Jordan to other states, among them Syria.

Because Jordan has good relations with Turkey, it promised to help improve Syrian-Turkish relations. But Syria remains adamant arguing that Jordan continues to boost its relations with Turkey. Syria still argues that the latter occupies Arab lands and has a military agreement with Israel.

On the other hand, Jordan said that Iran occupies Arab islands, and supports terrorism against Bahrain. Yet, it has good relations with Syria.

During their meetings in the summit, the Jordanian side stressed that it does not interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states and accordingly does not accept intervention in its own affairs.

Syria claims that Turkey has taken a large share of its water from the Euphrates. In turn, Jordan accused Syria of taking a large quantity of Jordanian water.

Referring to the media campaigns, the Jordanian side said that Syria had started a negative press campaign against Jordan.

During the summit, the Syrian prime minister denied that such campaigns were taking place. He said that he was merely addressing the Jordanian people. This provoked a reaction from Mr. al-Kabarati who also denied that there was a campaign against the Syrian Prime Minister, but said that he was also addressing the Syrian people.

Points of difference between Jordan and Syria also concentrate on Iraq and Lebanon. Jordan was clear in its position towards the two countries: the unity of Iraq and the independence of Lebanon.

Jordan stresses the need for comprehensive efforts to solve all issues before holding a summit between King Husayn and President al-Asad.

What is important is that the two sides agreed to put an end to their differences, form committees to solve any misunderstanding and to engage in a constructive dialogue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Columnist Criticizes Recent Bombing in Saudi Arabia

JN2706165696 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jun 96 pp 18, 16

["Frankly Speaking" column by Sultan al-Hattab: "Peace and Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorist act which happened in Saudi Arabia yesterday serves the viewpoint of the Arabs' foes who will use it to tarnish the Arab image and draw the world's attention to the need for fighting terrorism first before fulfilling any obligations of the peace process which is hostage to Netanyahu.

What happened came in time to embody the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state who began to talk about Arab terrorism and point to Syria on the U.S. list which changes according to the U.S. interests. Christopher, however, did not object to any sentence uttered by the Israeli prime minister who emptied the peace process of its substance while talking about active building of settlements in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea and in the whole land of greater Israel — Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem — as he put it.

Netanyahu's peace does not give the Arabs and Palestinians anything. The symbol of this lethal peace was embodied two days ago by Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the new Israeli defense minister, who carried a machine gun while dressed in civil clothes in occupied southern Lebanon, thus sending a message that he will fight on that land.

The alternative to all this haughtiness, to emptying the peace process of its substance, and to publicly disavowing the Arab rights lies in real Arab solidarity. We demand starting this solidarity immediately by holding wide and deep coordination among Syrians, Jordanians, Palestinians, and Lebanese, so they will share common denominators to stop and curb the frenzied Israeli aggression, end the disavowal of Arab rights, and propose various kinds of struggle to achieve this objective, including legitimate struggle designed to resist the occupation of Arab territories, whether Syrian, Lebanese, or Palestinian territory where the occupation authorities have not yet fulfilled their commitments.

The seriousness of the timing of the bombing in Saudi Arabia lies in the fact that it happened during Christopher's visit at a time when the world is stressing the need for Israel to fulfill its commitments toward the Palestinian side, especially what it signed regarding Hebron, the safe passage to Gaza, the detainees, and other issues.

Moreover, the bombing gave credibility to the statements made by Christopher who talked about terrorism in the Arab and Islamic World but did not talk about the terrorism carried out by Israel which is disavowing the Arab and Palestinian rights and creating pressures and sieges which lead to explosion. By causing this explosion and other explosions, by mixing the cards, and by placing the ball again in the Arab court following the Cairo summit, Israel will win because it can exploit all this and redraft the agenda in a way that serves its plans.

If the Arabs do not become vigilant, then terrorism, which has unlimited sources and which befalls them and their territory, will be exploited against them and will tarnish the Arab image and rights before the world. Perhaps, what took place yesterday is linked to previous incidents, and the sides benefiting from them are the same side. Perhaps, the results of this will relieve many parties of their responsibilities and even of their obligations to the world when priority will only be given to Arab terrorism. At that time, cards will have been completely mixed.

Jordan: TIMES Views Dhahran Bombing, Killing of 3 Israelis

JN2706123596 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27-28 June 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Acts of Rage and Despair"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The shadow of fear and violence that still hangs over the Middle East was felt painfully yesterday with the bombing that killed 19 people and wounded many more in a military base in Saudi Arabia and the killing of three Israeli soldiers by an unidentified group.

As we join the rest of the world in condemning the two operations, as all acts of violence and terror should be condemned and fought, we have to think of who the perpetrators are and shed light on what they want to achieve. In every likelihood there is a common thread, or a commonality of interest, tying the motives, if not the perpetrators themselves, of the two attacks. In this context, we believe that the peace process in the Middle East, and the regional order that is emerging as a result of its progress and development is the real target of the two acts.

While it is true that a clear vision for dealing with the roots of violence and a clear, internationally accepted definition of terrorism are still missing from the political dictionary of today's world, we feel that what has transpired at the Sharm al-Shaykh international conference and more recently the Cairo Arab summit could

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

give us a clue to what the terrorists want and what they are really after.

There is no doubt that the attack on the Israeli soldiers will affect the peace process. it could push Israel towards adopting an even more hardline position on the negotiations with the inevitable result of causing more hard-ships for Israelis and Arabs alike. But past experience has proven that increased security and punitive measures are no shield against violence. The only viable way of stemming violence is the attainment of progress in the peace talks. Experience too has shown that there has been a clear trade off between peace and violence.

Israel's new prime minister is insisting that there can be no peace without security, that "terrorism is incompatible with peace." But U.S. secretary of state was right to remind him that there can be no security without peace either. And there can be no peace without an end to occupation and the usurpation of other people's rights.

As for the bloody bombing in Saudi Arabia, it is a clear indication that extremists are on the rise in the Arab Gulf which had traditionally enjoyed internal stability and security. Some might argue that there can be no stability in the whole of the Middle East unless peoples democratic rights and freedoms are respected and institutionalised. But it is clear that certain countries in the region have adopted terrorism as a means to achieve their political goals. That is why the bombing in Dhahran must be thoroughly investigated. If it is proven that other state(s) had a hand in the operation, not just through direct involvement in the attack but also through spreading beliefs and ideologies that promote violence, collective action should be taken against it or them. This is a responsibility that the countries of the region should not shun.

What is also needed to guard against future regional instability is to work together to address the economic imbalances that carry the potential of creating regional upheavals in terms of economic mass migrations and economically motivated unrest. So far, the Middle East has not only been torn by ethnic and nationalistic strife, it has also witnessed the slowest economic growth rates in the whole world.

The only way to protect our area from future turbulence is to make it a better, more peaceful and prosperous region with close channels of coordination, communication and cooperation among its various states. This, and not transient, short-lived reactions to bloody and tragic events, is the right path to ridding the Middle East from the consequences of fanaticism and despair.

Jordan: Weekly Reports 'Heroic Operation' in Saudi Arabia

JN2706160296 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a daring fedayeen operation, which revived a history that was about to go into oblivion, some Saudi youths carried out a bombing operation that killed 23 U.S. servicemen and injured around 400 others, most of them seriously. In addition, many people are still unaccounted for. Perhaps, they are under the rubble.

A truck was used in the heroic operation. The truck was loaded with 2,500 kg of powerful explosives. The explosion left a crater 11 meters deep with a 28-meter diameter near an eight-story building at a U.S. Air Force base in al-Khubar near Dhahran on the Saudi- Bahraini border.

Christopher, "undertaker [muta'ahhid] of the peace process," pledged to hunt down the perpetrators, saying that Washington would not rest until they are brought to "justice." Christopher did not say what he means by the word "justice."

As of the time this report was prepared, we have not had a chance to observe Arab reactions, although it is widely believed that they would be confined to characterizing the heroes as cowards and the "carcasses" as martyrs.

Jordan: Columnist Views Link Between Suppression, Violence

JN2806080396 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 18

["Highlights' column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Too Much Pressure Produces Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuesday's explosion in Saudi Arabia, which left 19 U.S. servicemen dead and 270 others wounded, should be studied carefully to deduce the necessary lessons. The United States has the right to be angry. It also has the right to accuse the perpetrators of terrorism and to demand that they be brought to "justice" when they are arrested. This, however, will not put an end to the bloody episodes, which did not occur before the foreign soldiers set foot on Arab lands.

We do not seek excuses for the acts of violence and murder which harm innocent people who are not involved in the decision-making process. We, however, demand that all parties share their responsibility. Once he is identified and arrested, the perpetrator will be beheaded by sword in a public square. But what about

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the other factors that contributed, even indirectly, to what happened.

Why does the United States keep scores of thousands of its soldiers, pilots, and sailors in the Arabian Peninsula when it knows that they are not welcome? If the objective is to control Arab oil and ensure that it continues to flow at nominal prices for the welfare of the U.S. citizen, then it is only natural that there is a price for all which must be paid in American blood.

If the perpetrators of this act belong to the Afghan Arabs — the approximately 400 Saudis who returned from Afghanistan after the eviction of the "small Satan" soldiers — then it is only natural that they use their experience to evict the "arch-Satan" soldiers by employing the same methods they learned from the CIA. Thus, the magic backfired on the magician.

On the other hand, the western propaganda machine, particularly Hollywood, went to extremes to glorify those who resisted Nazi occupation by laying ambushes and killing German officers and soldiers in cold blood since this was considered a struggle for liberation and not terrorism. Consequently, the value of using violence to resist foreign soldiers was established and the Americans were given the same medicine they gave to others.

It must be said that we oppose any acts that threaten the stability of a sisterly Arab state. However, it is proper to give people the chance to express their views in a civilized way. We ask: Why do people resort to bombs and not ballot boxes? Why do they not cast their votes in popular ballots and not use bullets? And why do they not express themselves through political parties, elected representatives, and free press?

If we want people to abandon violence then we must provide alternative methods for them to voice their opinions. Too much pressure produces an explosion.

Jordan: SHIHAN Reports on 'Clashes' With Israeli Patrol

JN2706171296 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 29 Jun-25 Jul 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes took place in al-Karamah area last Tuesday [25 June] between Jordanian citizens who tried to infiltrate to Israel and an Israeli patrol. According to available information, the clashes resulted in the killing of an Israeli soldier, while the infiltrators managed to escape.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Government Decides To Review New Electoral Law

NC2706182296 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 27 (AFP) — The Lebanese Government decided to review Thursday [27 June] a controversial new electoral bill just four days after approving it and less than two months before national polls.

The plan to divide Lebanon into four constituencies and carve up the Christian stronghold of Jabal Lubnan into smaller voting wards was passed Monday by the cabinet after months of discussion, notably with Syria, the main foreign power broker in Beirut.

But four ministers, including Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, then refused publicly to back the bill while the influential parliament speaker Nabih Birri slammed it as unconstitutional. Annoyed at the sniping, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri decided that the cabinet would review the bill before it went before parliament for approval.

Christian opposition leaders threatened to boycott the August legislative elections if the law was adopted. They believe the carving-up of Jabal Lubnan is designed to dilute the Christians' voting power.

Buwayz, a Christian, said the proposed law "treats Christian electors as second-class citizens."

Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah said it contained "several judicial irregularities."

Political commentators believe the bill was aimed at benefitting Druze leader Walid Junblatt, a government minister and parliamentary candidate for Jabal Lubnan where the Druze vote is very weak.

A Christian opposition leader, Dori Sham'un, said "the Lebanese government is about to repeat the electoral farce of 1992 by securing the election of a parliament beholden to Syria by unconstitutional means."

Both Christian and Moslem voters responded to a boycott call by the anti-Syrian, Christian opposition in the last elections in 1992, when voter turnout was only 14 percent.

Lebanon: Opposition Calls For Dropping Draft Elections Law

NC2706194396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The opposition parties held a meeting at the National Liberal Party headquarters in Sodeco [in Beirut] this afternoon.

A statement issued by the conferees calls on the government to stop tampering with Lebanon's fate and to listen to its conscience before it is too late by backing away from what they called the sedition [elections] law.

The deputies, who have already voiced strong opposition to the draft elections law, called for a reassessment of the Constitutional Council in order to dissolve it in light of its violation of the Constitution and coexistence.

The opposition said the failure to adopt all Lebanon as one electoral constituency aims to exclude the real representatives of the people. They described the draft election law as biased and said that it lays the ground for future sedition.

Following the meeting, National Liberal Party Leader Dori Sham'un said the statement was drawn up by all the participants and they hope that the Lebanese will read and take it into account. On whether the state will take this statement into account, Sham'un said: This is its responsibility; the ball is in its court.

Lebanon: Council of Ministers Approves Draft Election Law

NC2706194096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its ordinary weekly meeting at the Presidential Palace under President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today, the Council of Ministers approved the amended draft electoral law provisions. It amended clause No. 10 of Law No. 154 of 22 July 1992 regarding the media and the election coverage. The clause now reads as follows:

Clause No. 10: All non-political audio, visual, and printed media shall be banned from dealing with political electioneering during the election campaign from the date of inviting the election committee up to the date of holding the elections and announcing the final results. Violations of this clause will lead to suspension of the media organ by a decision of the Publications Court. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Hizballah Official Vows Operations To Continue

LD2506195296 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 25, IRNA — Deputy secretary-general of Hizballah of Lebanon, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, made it clear today that as long as Lebanese territory remained under occupation of the Zionist entity the Islamic Resistance Movement will continue its operations against the Qods [Jerusalem]-occupying regime.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He stressed that struggle against the illegal state of Israel was something "natural", and said that Israeli aggressions against the defenceless people of Lebanon is not because of the presence of the Islamic Resistance forces, but was part of the expansionist policies of the Zionist entity to try to keep the region in political turmoil.

Qasim, however, dismissed the recent statements of the Zionist officials to go on the aggressive in southern Lebanon if required, and said that Israel will not dare to pursue such policies because of the problems and heavy damage that it is likely to face.

Commenting on the current visit to occupied Palestine of the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Hizballah official said the Americans were making efforts to open a new round of negotiations in the Middle East and to review the ways of cooperation between Arab states and the new government in Israel.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: Al-Asad Calls Saudi Crown Prince To Condemn Explosion

JN2606171296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad called His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and head of the Saudi Arabia National Guard, today to express Syria's condemnation of the act to which the Kingdom was exposed last night and to offer his condolences for the victims, as well as to voice Syria's solidarity and concern that stability and security in sisterly Saudi Arabia will not be encroached upon.

Syria: Al-Intifadah Statement Claims Attack on Israeli Soldiers

NC2606152296 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, June 26 (AFP)—A hardline Palestinian group Al-Intifadah on Wednesday [26 June] said it had carried out an attack which left three Israeli soldiers dead on the border between Jordan and the West Bank, in a statement sent to AFP.

Syria: Information Minister Blames 'Zionism' for Explosions

NC2706180996 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 27 (AFP)—Syria is paying the price for waging a battle against "international Zionism" with a series of plots against it, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said here Thursday [27 June].

Asked about U.S. State Department reports of explosions in Syria in May, Salman would only say "international Zionism, wherever it may be, carries out campaigns against Syria."

"Any national Arab position has a price, especially since we are waging a battle against international Zionism and not just against the state of Israel itself."

"The U.S. State Department did not specify any incidents in Syria," he said, adding that "Syria is a safe country that irritates its enemies."

Washington said on June 4 that there had been a series of non-accidental explosions in Syria, and issued a warning to Americans living or travelling there.

Damascus denied the reports, but travellers coming from Syria told AFP that there had been explosions there in May.

Salman was attending a meeting of Arab information ministers in Syria.

Syria: Press Assails Israeli Prime Minister's Statements, Position

JN2806100196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the future of the peace process, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: As soon as the expanded Arab summit ended in Cairo and issued a balanced and objective statement on the issue of peace — a statement which stressed peace based on international legitimacy and the need to abide by the Madrid terms of reference — the new Israeli Government, in a rancorous reaction, assailed this summit and interfered in Arab internal affairs and pan-Arab security.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the results and resolutions included in the Cairo summit's final communique placed, and even kept, the ball in the Israeli court. They showed the world again that the Arabs seek a real, just, and comprehensive peace through which they will regain their territories and rights, and that the Arabs do not seek capitulation. These resolutions were never provocative for even those who insist on the wrong and distorted reading of things. The paper adds: These resolutions did not close the doors to peace, and they were frank and clear in everything.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Likud government seemed more extremist, aggressive, and rejectionist by declaring the no's about rejection and non-withdrawal and by calling for a new policy to resume negotiations on the Syrian track outside the framework of Madrid and in avoidance of the Security Council resolutions and without abandoning the occupation of the Golan. This means cancellation of the terms of reference of the peace process and evasion of this process and of all that was achieved.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria and the Arabs do not beg for peace and that they only urge the international community and the two cosponsors to assume an urgent historic responsibility, to quickly prevent Israel from tampering with the destiny and future of the peace process, and to take the necessary measures to preserve this process and prevent its failure or collapse.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH discusses Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's position which was reiterated during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday. Netanyahu emphasized

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

this position during his electoral campaign and in his government's policy statement and also following the Cairo summit by rejecting the bases of a just and comprehensive peace and the land-for-peace principle. In this regard, Netanyahu considered the Madrid's terms of reference as preconditions.

The paper adds: Moreover, Netanyahu stressed adherence to occupation, to non-withdrawal, and to the expansion of the settlement activity. He thus confirmed that no Israeli position is dictated by electoral circumstances. Therefore, what the Israeli officials say under any circumstances is part of Israel's expansionist general policy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: What Netanyahu did in this regard was not new. It was an official Israeli policy pursued by the former Israeli governments, each in its own way. However, these governments converged on the same position.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Hence, the Arabs, who are targeted by this expansionist and non-peaceful Israeli policy, should contemplate and review things, especially since they announced at the Cairo summit the option of a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the Madrid terms of reference. They should also take practical steps to stop normalization with Israel. The international community and the two cosponsors of the peace process, particularly the United States, should take a more decisive position toward Israel, so it will yield to the will of peace.

In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the talks held between U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and the Israeli prime minister. The paper says: These talks brought nothing new except for Netanyahu's statement before and after Christopher's visit. Netanyahu failed to declare his position or clarify it before his expected meeting with the U.S. president next week.

AL-BA'TH wonders: What will Netantyahu, who rejects the bases and principles of the peace process, say to an administration that has always stressed its commitment to partnership, honest mediation, and adherence to the peace process in accordance with the Madrid formula and the land-for-peace principle?

The paper says: There are several questions but what is most important is the fact that Netanyahu's electoral platform, which continues, showed a clear and frank retreat from the bases of the peace process through his no's and preconditions. Does this also apply to the U.S. Administration which still has no clear way to address the Likud government?

AL-BA'TH adds: Certainly, a retreat from the peace process will not be in favor of this administration which pledged to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Hence, the coming meeting between the U.S. president and the Israeli prime minister will be a decisive one in terms of its results which may be negatively or positively reflected on the whole peace process in the Middle East.

Syria: Radio Urges World To Pressure Israel Over Peace Stand

JN2706142696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Those who said before the Cairo Arab summit that the mere convening of the summit would be an accomplishment were not exaggerating. The summit was convened to close Arab ranks, reestablish Arab solidarity, and unify the Arab stand toward the peace process. Additionally, the Cairo summit issued a final communique that painted for the new Arab stand a picture that is in line with the Arabs' aspirations. Moreover, the summit resulted in resolutions that made it clear to the world, and to all those concerned about the Middle East conflict, that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires: Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital; a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders; and a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' to the international borders. This paragraph in the communique of the Arab summit, which is in harmony with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. initiative that is grounded in these resolutions and the land-for-peace formula, irritated the new Israeli Government. They deemed this paragraph and similar ones in the Arab summit communique as frightening, as the Israeli foreign minister said, as if the Israeli Government's refusal to withdraw from the Golan and other occupied Arab territories, as if its rejection of the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state, and as if its declaration that it will proceed with efforts to Judaize occupied Arab Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories through settlement construction and expansion is not frightening to the entire world community, and to those who are sincerely and honestly working to achieve a regional peace. Moreover, all these Israeli stands prompt Arab fears over the fate of the peace process.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

What is more bizarre is the fact that the Israeli foreign minister described the policies delineated by Arab summiteers as biased. Since when have the Arabs been far removed from their kinsmen or fateful causes? How can they be accused of showing bias toward their own causes? The components of the Arab stand spelled out at the Arab summit are in complete harmony with the resolutions of the international community. Nonetheless, the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister claimed that the Arabs' adherence to the resolutions passed by the international community constitute preconditions. Consequently, they rejected negotiations under what they called dictates and preconditions. In this regard, we should recall that both the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister were members of the delegation of Yitzhaq Shamir, former Israeli prime minister, to the Madrid conference; that the current Israeli foreign minister was the Shamir government's foreign minister then; and that the Madrid conference was convened on the basis of the U.S. initiative, which was based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Why then did they agree to take part in the Madrid conference on the basis of these resolutions five years ago? Why did they agree to take part in several bilateral rounds of negotiations later in the U.S. capital? Now, they deem these resolutions preconditions. It is clear that an expansionist approach marks the Israeli Government's attitude toward the peace process. This approach cannot be concealed by crude pretexts regarding the need for the occupied Golan for the so-called security of Israel. Such pretexts were refuted by the U.S. initiative when former U.S. President George Bush said that military technology nullified the importance of geography; that is, nullified the alleged vital need for the Golan for Israel's security. This was later reiterated by President Clinton when he said that peace and occupation cannot coexist.

The Israeli foreign minister said that the Israeli Government is still in the beginning stages of its work, and that others must give it time before judging its approaches. As a matter of fact, regardless of whether or not this reasoning is plausible, the time factor must be utilized by all sides. Additionally, if the Israeli Government wants time to consider and examine issues, the time it is requiring must be used by the cosponsors of the peace process and influential world powers to make Israel understand that compliance with the relevant international resolutions does not constitute preconditions, but rather respect for international legitimacy. Moreover, Israel must be made to understand that the Arabs have opted for peace, and that they adhere to the relevant international resolutions conducive to peace. Consequently, peace is impossible to achieve unless the Israelis make a commitment to peace, one that is similar to the Arab commitment. It is not only the Arabs who need peace. As a matter of fact, peace is more badly needed by Israel, not to mention the world's need for peace, given the vital importance of this region for world security and peace.

Syria: Deputy Premier on Economic Effects of Peace

MM2806092996 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 24-30 Jun 96 p 38

[Unattributed report: "Salim Yasin: We Do Not Fear the Effect of Peace on Our Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-WASAT — Dr. Salim Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, said that scaremongering about Israeli domination of the Arab economic market in the post-peace era is unfounded, and stressed that Syria and the Arab states have the capabilities, experience, knowledge, and know-how.

Dr. Yasin, who led a Syrian delegation on a visit to Britain some days ago, told AL-WASAT that such talk does not mean Israel will not or did not in the past try to dominate; "however, what is important is to find the ways and means to use our energies and potential." He declined to answer a question on the Syrian Finance Ministry's decision to confiscate the funds of current and former ministers and officials.

The Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs talked about the importance of water for Syria and its agriculture, saying that "the whole world and all civilizations were founded on the banks of rivers and lakes, and therefore the water issue with Turkey must be dealt with within the context of neighborly relations which exist between any two adjoining countries and in accordance with international laws and conventions." He said the oil pipeline going through the city of Baniyas needs to be examined from the point of view of economic usefulness, because, in 10 years, many of the known facts, as well as maintenance costs, have changed. The Syrian official said his country's economy "has made many achievements and progress, a fact confirmed by a 7 percent average growth rate over the past five years. On average, the GNP per capita has increased by 3.4 percent." He said the rate of population increase has reached a high 3.5 percent, which means an increase of 450,000 people a year in Syria's population.

Yasin talked about the increase in the agricultural sector's output, particularly in the main crops such as wheat and barley. He said that, despite the population increase, Syria has achieved self-sufficiency and has started to have some vegetables and fruit surplus for export.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He revealed that there are obstacles and difficulties from which no economic system in all the advanced and industrialized countries is immune. He explained that there is always something which requires the executive power in any country to act. He gave an example of the obstacles and difficulties which need solutions and said that, in Syria, there are numerous exchange rates, and that having more than one rate can have a negative impact. He said that some measures have been taken with a view to setting a single exchange rate.

On Syria's foreign debts, Yasin said his country does not have heavy debts and that "the loans that we obtained were intended for financing construction projects and not for commercial expenditure, in addition to the fact that the loans were on easy terms. Furthermore, the income from these projects will be used to repay the debts." He attributed the delay in repaying some of these debts to circumstances beyond the control of the Syrian economy. The delay has now been resolved and settled with all countries, with the exception of two countries, with which contacts are being held with a view to resolve the issue. He said that Syria's debts with the [former] Soviet Union are not debts in the traditional sense, adding that "there are reciprocal commitments between the two sides, because there were several agreements between us. These agreements were based on reciprocal commitments." As an example, Dr. Yasin said: "We bought some airplanes, but in return, there is an agreement stating that we would be supplied with spare parts for a specific period. If the Russians stop supplying us, the airplanes no longer have any value. Any branch of the Syrian Commercial Bank is capable of handling the other debts."

He denied that there is any problem with regard to any [Syrian] importer of goods, products, and services honoring his commitments, or with anyone entering into an agreement to carry out projects as long as he does not default on what is stated in the contract's commitments and specifications.

He said privatization in Syria has been achieved by opening the door to economic activities in all sectors, and that the private, joint and cooperative sectors are open for all economic activities in industry, agriculture, tourism, and other fields. He stressed that Syria will not abandon the public sector. Instead a law has been issued allowing it complete freedom to take decisions based on economic principles, and that it is being treated as economic units, in the same way as other units, and in an atmosphere of economic sufficiency and improved output.

Yasin said that Syria has started building a third port, providing Syrian ports with specifications and facilities enabling them to compete with the services of neighboring ports. He said that, at their forthcoming meetings, the joint Lebanese-Syrian committees will announce several projects between the two countries which would reinforce cooperation and safeguard both countries' interests.

On the importance of joint projects between Arab states, the Syrian deputy prime minister said these states have an advantage in the fact that they complement each other. He explained that his talks with British officials and businessmen, with whom he met during the conference organized by the association of British industrialists, focused on explaining the Syrian economy's characteristics and the laws adopted to encourage investments. He talked about the high standard of Syrian manufactured goods and said that, because of their specifications, they have started to penetrate European markets.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Praises Iranian Efforts To Restore Peace

LD2706083496 Tehran IRNA in English 0637 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan Wednesday [26 June] praised Iran's efforts to restore peace to his country.

Making the remark after introducing Golboddin Hekmatyar as Afghan prime minister, he said the recent gains in furthering the peace process in Afghanistan were due to efforts made by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

Rabbani also urged Iran to become involved in the reconstruction efforts of the war-torn Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, leader of the Islamic Unity Party 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf said the Muslim people of Afghanistan through their reliance on God will thwart all conspiracies of the enemies and arrogance.

Speaking during the ceremony in which Hekmatyar was sworn in as prime minister, Sayyaf said Afghan mujahidin cannot tolerate U.S. conspiracies aimed at installing an unislamic and despotic element such as Zaher Shah. He stressed that the Afghans will not allow the Islamic values to be replaced by Western ones.

Calling on all Afghan factions and groups to follow Hekmatyar's example and join the government in a bid to restore peace and launch on reconstruction efforts, he stressed that the country's future system sould be founded on Islam.

Islamic laws do not authorize killing of defenceless people, he said, adding, the Taleban is a mercenary group of foreigners and enemies of the Afghan people.

Afghanistan: Khales Hails Alliance, Says Conference 'Waste of Time'

LD2606144996 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The [Afghan] people's problem will be resolved in the wake of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] alliance. This is a good thing: we praise it. These points were made by esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Yunus Khales [leader of Hezb-e Eslami, Khales faction] in an interview with Nangarhar radio and television. He said that Jam'iyat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami should forget the past and pour no more oil on the fires of war in the future.

On his visit to Kandahar he said: We have not signed a special agreement with the Taleban. He added: So far no invitation has been given to me to visit America and indeed I am not ready to go to America. Mawlawi Khales added: Not only can the Washington conference not resolve our people's problems but the conference agenda is not even known. He said: I believe such conferences are nothing but a waste of time.

Afghanistan: Iran's Borujerdi Meets With Afghan President

LD2706110296 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 27, IRNA — The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi in a meeting here Thursday [27 June] with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan and ways to promote Tehran-Kabul ties. Borujerdi is here to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Golboddin Hekmatyar as Afghan prime minister.

Sending his best greetings to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Rabbani once again praised Iran's great efforts to settle the Afghan crisis and to restore peace to his country. Calling for continuation of such efforts, he voiced his country's readiness to sit at the negotiating table with all Afghan belligerent groups. He also announced his government's willingness to strengthen friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, Borujerdi, on behalf of President Rafsanjani, congratulated the Afghan president on new political developments in Afghanistan concerning the alliance between Hekmatyar and the Kabul government. He also stressed that negotiation is the only solution to Afghan problem.

Underlining the need to find a solution to the critical situation in Afghanistan, he reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran would continue its peace efforts till the peace is restored to Afghanistan.

Borujerdi, heading a delegation, arrived here Wednesday [26 June] afternoon and is due to meet with new Afghan premier.

Afghanistan: Iranian Official Praises Rabbani-Hekmatyar Agreement

LD2706082596 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 27, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi said the agreement reached between President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami is a turning point in the peace process of Afghanistan.

Speaking at the oath taking ceremony of the Hezb-e Eslami leader for premiership, Borujerdi said that it was a great event that the Muslim nation of Afghanistan had the opportunity to witness the agreement between the two major factions. He added that the Afghan people were very much in need of such a firm and constructive step towards establishment of peace in their war-torn country.

The Iranian official added that Iran is hopeful that all Afghan groups will join the peace process and move on the path shown by the almighty God.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister said that the coalition proves that solutions to the Afghan crisis cannot be found outside Afghanistan borders. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always encouraged inter-Afghan talks, considering them the only option for peace and stability in the Muslim country, he added.

"Those, who during the past four years watched the killings in this war-ravaged country indifferently and are now trying to find a solution to the Afghan crisis outside its borders are mistaken," Borujerdi added.

Afghanistan: Pakistan Prime Minister Bhutto Congratulates Hekmatyar

LD2606151196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, has sent a message of congratulations to Mr. Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] on his appointment as the new prime minister of the country. Our correspondent reports that in her letter, Benazir Bhutto told Hekmatyar that Pakistan wants friendly relations between the two countries. In her letter, Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that Hekmatyar will play an important role in the restoration of peace and security in war-torn Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Leaders of 1975 Coup on Diplomatic Jobs Ordered Home

BK2806073096 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, June 28 (AFP) — Bangladesh has ordered five leaders of a military coup in 1975 now serving on diplomatic assignments abroad to return to Dhaka, a senior Foreign Ministry source told AFP Friday [28 June].

"They have been asked to report back to Dhaka," the source said, without elaborating.

The five were not identified by name or job, but the source said two of them are stationed in Romania and Poland.

The bloody coup toppled Bangladesh's post-independence Awami League government, headed by Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

His daughters, Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Sheikh Rehana, survived the putsch as they were abroad at that time.

Sheikh Hasina this month became prime minister, after an emphatic win in nationwide elections.

Earlier this month four other coup leaders who led the right wing Freedom Party fled the country just before she was sworn in, apparently fearing arrest.

Sheikh Hasina has repeatedly said she does not believe in the politics of revenge and that the laws of the land should prevail in this case.

Her election manifesto surprised many Bangladeshis by dropping the party's demand for repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, a law that constitutionally bars the trial of the coup leaders.

Separately, the official said the Foreign Ministry had terminated the contract of five other diplomats.

They are ambassadors who had been given "political appointments" by the previous Bangladesh Nationalist Party government of Khaleda Zia, the current opposition leader, he said.

One of them, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mir Nasiruddin, told the DAILY STAR newspaper by telephone from Riyadh that he had already tendered his resignation because there is a new government in Dhaka.

"We have not received his resignation letter so far," the ministry source said.

The four other envoys are stationed in Britain, South Africa, Bahrain and Thailand.

India

India: Gujral Says India's CTBT Stand Not To Affect U.S. Ties

BK2706125196 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 26 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Pranay Sharma]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral, has written to his counterparts in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nations participating in the conference on disarmament in Geneva, explaining New Delhi's refusal to sign the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. [CTBT] Mr Gujral's gesture is aimed at ensuring that India is not isolated on the nuclear question.

"I have written to all the foreign ministers, explaining our reasons for the statement we made on the CTBT," Mr Gujral said in an exclusive interview with The Telegraph.

"What we have said on the CTBT is in the context of our national security, and I think every friendly country will appreciate our stand," he added.

India has decided not to sign the CTBT as it feels the proposed agreement, in its present form, is inadequate as it cannot check sophisticated nuclear tests and does not talk about eliminating nuclear weapons.

But New Delhi appears to have been cornered by other countries for its stand, and there are indications that India may be blamed for the failure of the treaty coming into force.

Also, there is apprehension in certain quarters that there may be pressure on India from the West, particularly the US, which may cut off economic aid and convince foreign investors against coming to India. But Mr Gujral does not think so. "There is no pressure whatsoever. The only pressure is my commitment to safeguard my countries security," he said.

The foreign minister also felt India's stand on the CTBT will not sour its relations with the US, which was keen to see the treaty come into force by this year. He pointed out that Indo-US relations do not rest on a single point, rather they are based on multiple issues.

"Just because we differ on some issues does not mean that it will strain our relations with the US. We cooperate with each other at various international fora," he added.

Mr Gujral pointed out that the US was India's biggest trade partner and the maximum investment to the country came from the US.

"I hope the matured diplomacy of America and the wisdom God has given us will take us towards an area of more cooperation and friendship with each other," he said.

India: Envoy Rescinds India's Atomic Test Monitoring Offer for CTBT

BK2706150296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has said it will no longer be able to maintain its offer to provide monitoring facilities for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. This was conveyed by the country's permanent representative in Geneva, Ms. Arundhati Ghosh, to the president of the conference on disarmament and the chairman of the ad hoc committee on CTBT negotiations. In her communication, she requested that references to monitoring facilities located in India will need to be deleted from the text of the draft treaty. Ms. Ghosh's letter is in response to a communication from the president of the conference. It was addressed to all countries, which could have taken part in the international monitoring system to finalize the list of facilities. India's response is in keeping with her statement on last Thursday [20 June] indicating that New Delhi will not be able to subscribe to the treaty in its present form.

India: Official—Pakistan's Opening Trade Route Raises 'Suspicion'

BK2506144296 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Ajay Bharadwaj]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opening up of the land route through Wagha for trade with Pakistan appears to have become a bone of contention between the security agencies and the commerce ministry.

While the defence authorities and the BSF [Border Security Forces] have opposed any move to open the route because of security reasons, the commerce ministry and Customs officials have prepared a strong case in favour of opening up this trade channel.

India began its exercise to explore the possibility of starting trade through this route, after the Pakistan Government issued a notification last month suggesting resumption of trade with India through the Wagha border, near here. The land route between the two countries was closed for trade after the 1971 war.

Subsequently, after the Simla Agreement, the rail route through Atari was resumed in the mid-seventies for trade but the land route remained closed. The possibility of re-opening the land route was further jeopardised during militancy in Punjab when both countries also banned the entry of citizens from either side.

Pakistan, however, continued to be used as transit for transportation of goods to Afghanistan from India.

After Pakistan notified Wagha as a land route for trade with India, a consignment of potatoes was sent across to Pakistan early this month. The Customs cleared the consignment amid confusion whether trade from India should begin automatically after Pakistan notified the route. India had at no stage imposed any formal ban on the land route operations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Even as confusion over the legality of sending the potato consignment persisted, officials at Wagha allowed yet another trader to send a consignment to Pakistan following directions from the Delhi headquarters of the Customs.

A team of the Union commerce ministry led by a joint secretary visited Wagha recently to study the trade potential through this route.

The team favoured opening up of the route to give a boost to trade with Pakistan, particularly when traders were feeling many constraints through the rail route. Shortage of wagons and irregular plying of trains have been the major hardships which have not allowed the trade to flourish.

Against exports totalling Rs.[rupees] 99 crore in 1994-95 through the Atari rail link to Pakistan, in 1995-96, the figure shot up to Rs.147 crore. The commerce and customs officials feel that trade can get a tremendous impetus if allowed through the land route also.

But intelligence and security agencies differ on the matter. They cite a recent case of smuggling of a huge consignment of arms through the Wagha border to highlight the security risks the route would involve. The arms consignment hidden beneath a foreign bus detected in Delhi early this year.

BSF officers say sending trade items from India should not be much of a problem as imports from Pakistan would be. Coming and going of vehicles through Wagha would increase the security risks, they say.

A senior official doubted the intention of Pakistan in issuing a notification of opening the land route unilaterally. "Pakistan could have at least talked to India before taking this step. Their over-enthusiasm to open up the land route certainly generates suspicion in our minds." the official said.

Deputy commissioner K.B.S.Sidhu, who was asked by the home ministry to formulate a feasibility report on the matter, said he had suggested re-opening of the route with adequate safeguards. She admitted that the security risk would increase trade between the two countries which, in turn, could also help improve relations between them.

Iran

Iran: Velayati Denies Iranian Involvement in Saudi Bombing

LD2706210996 Tehran IRNA in English 2042 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 27, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here on Thursday [27 June] again refuted allegations of Iran's involvement in the bomb blast in Saudi Arabia at the American military base in al-Khubar. Speaking to reporters after the end of the tripartite ministerial talks involving Iran, Ukraine and Turkmenistan, Velayati said "Iran is the chief victim of terrorism."

The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any kind of terrorist act, he added. Answering a reporter on Israel's attempts to link Iran to the bomb blast, he pointed out that on Wednesday [26 June] the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman gave a curt reply to the baseless Zionist allegations which were provided by American backers.

"As far as we know those who are ruling occupied Palestine today have a long record of terrorism for giving shape to their concept of a terrorist government on occupied Palestinian soil," said the Iranian foreign minister.

Elaborating on Israeli crimes in Lebanon, he said the Zionist regime indulges on a routine basis in kidnappings and bombardment of residential areas of Lebanon.

Iran: Commentary—Dhahran Blast Impossible Without Saudi Role

LD2706142096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The blast in a U.S. airbase in Saudi Arabia, which has led to the death of at least 19 Americans, has caused wide-scale ripples among different governments and media groups. The UN Security Council on Wednesday 26th June, condemning the blast, demanded countermeasures preempting the recurrence of such acts. This comes at a time when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the site on the same day to have a first-hand look at what had actually taken place there. [passage omitted]

Since the outbreak of the invasion crisis of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, the United States has stepped up its presence in Saudi Arabia. This has resulted in the opposition of the people living in the Persian Gulf region, especially [in] Saudi Arabia. Since then, there have been many groups who have voiced their outcries over Washington's intervention in the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia to the country's rulers.

In the midst of all this, a number of experts maintain that the powerful explosion targeting U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia has not been possible without the cooperation of some Saudi military and security groups. These political

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

analysts do not rule out the possibility of the Saudi servicemen's information cooperation in this and earlier operations.

Elsewhere, the head of the International Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies considers the recent explosion in the Dhahran military base as a direct reaction to U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf, and Washington's efforts to exercise control over the region's oil wells.

It is due to this fact that the White House has constantly tried to create an atmosphere of mistrust and enmity among the regional countries so as to gain control over the oil-rich Persian Gulf, and step up arms sales to the regional states. However, it is expected that as in the past, Washington will deny any role in arousing anti-U.S. sentiments in the region.

Iran: Ambassador to Lebanon Denies Links to Dhahran Blast

NC2706145096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri today received Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh. During the meeting they discussed Lebanese domestic affairs in general and regional issues and bilateral ties, particularly parliamentary relations.

In response to a question about his country's stand on the U.S. accusations against Iran regarding the blast that occurred in Saudi Arabia, 'Alizadeh stressed that this is untrue and added that such accusations are part of the U.S. and Zionist political and media onslaught against Iran. He said that what happened in Dhahran is a Saudi domestic affair. He described the accusations against Iran as very silly and rejected them.

Iran: Yazdi Says Sanctions Damage U.S. Interests

LD2806114696 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jun 28 (IRNA) — The congregational Friday prayers of Tehran was led by head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi who elaborated on the performance of the judiciary and the measures taken to facilitiate handling of all cases and complaints.

The ayatollah, who made the remarks on the occasion of the Judiciary Week, added that the judiciary has dealt with criminals and drug traffickers and offenders resolutely and has handled all the cases in the shortest period of time.

The judiciary head said that the time period needed for completing investigations and coming up with verdicts has been reduced drastically and now all files are taken care of by the judiciary throughout the country in an average period of four to six months.

Addressing a large number of worshipers at Tehran University compound, he said that the work of the judiciary is based on fairness and abstention from any political tendency and personal preferences.

On Islamization of universities, the ayatollah who is also a member of the High Council for Cultural Revolution, said that studies and proposals have been made and all these will upon evaluation be compiled and submitted to the High Council of Cultural Revolution for consideration and approval.

On U.S. sanctions against Iran, he said they have damaged the interests of the U.S. citizens more than the others. He added that the U.S. politicians should make enough studies before making any such decision in future.

Turning to the recent agreement reached between the two main factions in war-torn Afgthanistan, Ayatollah Yazdi welcomed the agreement and expressed hope that the move will pave the way for speeding restoration of peace to Afghanistan.

Iran: Yazdi Refutes U.S. Allegation of Terrorism

LD2806122196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0745 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the second sermon in the 28 June Friday Prayers Ceremony conducted by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in the Tehran University compound]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

At this juncture I wish to mention a point out of context. There were terrorists in our country who blew up the Islamic Republic Party Headquarters [29 June 1980]. Where are they living today? Who is supporting them? Are they not supported by the Western states? Is it not the arrogant policies which are now supporting those terrorists, who created the 29 June tragedy and other similar tragedies?

Now, when something happens anywhere in the world, immediately an unreasonable man [Clinton], whose remarks are uncalculated, opens his mouth and says: Iran is behind this. When one is responsible for running a country one should calculate one's words before making a statement.

I am amazed to hear that after the explosion in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the said gentleman in the United States

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and another gentleman in Israel, both in highly responsible positions, blame Iran without any evidence and without even thinking about their words.

Even the French president has explicitly mentioned that there is dissatisfaction among the people in Saudi Arabia because of the U.S. military presence. Many other world statesmen and politicians who have analyzed these issues have explicitly stressed that the explosion has something to do with the people of Saudi Arabia. Then that gentleman says: It has got something to do with Iran.

No country in the world has been harmed as much as Iran by terrorism. No country has suffered so much and has given up as many martyrs as Iran thanks to terrorism. Therefore, Iran condemns such acts wherever they are carried out.

It is not fair to blame Iran and accuse it of being the guilty party whenever such incidents occur by whatever revolutionary movement. If you [the United States] were truly rational in your thinking, you are the guilty party for your unjustified presence here in this region and for your hegemonistic claims. You have come to this region without any justification for your presence. The people cannot put up with your military presence in this region. The entire world has calculated this and even Europe, not just France, has expressed this view. Despite all this, you accuse Iran. You should calculate your words. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Secretary of State [Warren Christopher] has visited the Middle East. I must say briefly that their sanctions have achieved nothing. They even turned to unilateral decisions but studies show that the American people and government have lost relatively more than Iran. U.S. politicians should be more careful when they make such decisions.

There has been a development in Afghanistan and an understanding has been reached there. We take this understanding as a good omen. It is a good understanding. We hope that they will keep to it, that it will not fall apart because of minor issues and that respect for the rights of all jihadi groups will free the country from civil war and will rebuild the country on the basis of an Islamic Government.

Iran: Official Says Clinton Stance 'Not New'

LD2706223296 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Studio interview with Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister in charge of legal affairs, by unidentified correspondent on 27 June; from the "Political Roundtable" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] [passage omitted]

[Zarif] From an independent and a legal point of view, the plan which is being proposed by the United States has a number of problems. For one thing, the U.S. action constitutes interference in other countries' relations. According to the UN Charter, intervention is an illegal act and contrary to the Charter. Furthermore, any interference in the domestic affairs of other countries or their international relations is illegal and a form of aggression. The U.S. action, therefore, constitutes interference. Previous U.S. actions to prevent Iranian access to things that were within the legal rights of the Islamic Republic — things which had nothing to do with the United States, such as peaceful nuclear technology — have been a form of illegal interference in the foreign affairs of Iran and other countries. Furthermore, the United States is now following a policy that is outside its jurisdiction. In other words, the U.S. Congress is a national U.S. institution which has no right to make international decisions. Its decisions can be only implemented by the U.S. Government. But this institution is intending to make decisions which bind third parties — companies or countries — to regulations which lack international legal legitimacy.

The action which has been taken against Iran and Libya as well as Cuba is a very dangerous one because a national institution is deciding about private and legal parties active outside the jurisdiction of that institution. For instance, the U.S. Congress has no right to make laws and to impose restrictions on a European individual or company.

The United States has always been a supporter of free trade and its motto has always been in defense of free trade. Today the United States is holding talks with Japan, Europe, and China on free trade and the need for lifting all forms of restrictions on free international trade. The Americans have made a great scene about these talks. They were the leading supporter of free trade during the talks on new regulations for GATT and the World Trade Organization. As far as GATT is concerned all forms of non-tariff obstacles for trade are illegal. Therefore, the United States is creating a non-tariff obstacle for non-American companies which have connections with the Islamic Republic and which also wish to have connections with their American trade partners. The U.S. action is preventing these companies from competing freely in the U.S. market and this contradicts U.S. obligations in GATT and in the newly founded World Trade Organization. So

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

there are three cases: first, interference; second, efforts to impose decisions by institutions which only have internal jurisdiction; and, third, the creation of illegal obstacles to international trade. The U.S. action is therefore illegal and we have thus seen various countries condemning this decision by the U.S. Congress.

[Correspondent] Can action be taken over this move?

[Zarif] From the point of view of intervention, we believe this United States move to be illegal, whether within general international issues — that is, the general international laws which govern the general behavior of all states — or within the agreements which govern the behavior of Iran and America, such as the Algiers Agreement or the Algiers Declaration. According to Article One of that agreement, the U.S. Administration is barred from intervening in Iranian affairs. As you know, the issue of the approval by the U.S. Congress of a bill concerning intervention in Iran's internal affairs — which goes back a bit further — the bill which came to be known as the $20 million bill — in fact directly contravened that undertaking. And right now, by approving a move which is considered an intervention — from the standpoint of international law — America has again violated not only its international undertakings but also its undertakings within the Algiers Declaration, in particular with regard to Iran. That is, America has broken its contractual agreement with Iran. Action can be taken over that in the International Court at The Hague and other international courts.

The issue of exercising internal jurisdiction outside a country's borders has actually become a hot international debate. That is because America has tried, in numerous instances, to break international law on account of its internal regulations. That action is totally rejected from a legal standpoint and cannot be defended in any way. Recently, in many legal and political gatherings, the issue of exercising internal jurisdiction outside a country's borders has been condemned and the move to exercise such jurisdiction has been condemned. In all probability this issue will be raised even more in the future, just as earlier the UN condemned such action against Cuba.

Because the Islamic Republic of Iran has not joined the GATT agreement and, subsequent to that, has not become a member of the World Trade Organization, there is no possibility of taking action by Iran. But action can be taken against this illegal U.S. measure by our trade partners — who will lose because of that move and who are America's trade partners as well as members of the World Trade Organization — and the U.S. move can be referred to competent forums in the World Trade Organization for trade disputes. That issue has been referred to by the EU and other states, who state that if the U.S. Congress and Administration finalize this illegal move and turn it into an official act, they reserve their right to act through those channels to confront it. That is while there is a possibility of taking retaliatory measures in the face of that move. We heard murmuring in this regard from some European states and the EU before and after the approval of the recent bill by the U.S. assembly. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What do you think about the remarks made by the head of the European Commission, who mentioned that he would criticize U.S. trade policies at the G-7 conference in Lyon?

[Zarif] These days we see a great deal of criticism coming from EU member countries against these policies. One of the reasons for such criticism is — as I have already mentioned — because of the more general effects of those policies on international economic relations and free competition and trade. It is possible that such discussions may seriously continue for the foreseeable future between America and the industrial countries, America's industrial partners and Third World countries. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There were reports saying that America has recently asked Europe for new plans which they can offer to replace the plan to impose sanctions on Iran's trade partners, and then America will study them. Doesn't the fact that such an issue has been raised demonstrate America's defeat with regard to this subject?

[Zarif] Certainly it shows the fact that America's move has faced serious opposition. As it was expected, other countries are not prepared to hand over their livelihood to the U.S. Congress and allow the U.S. Congress to determine their economic life and make decisions on that.

Therefore, in order to escape that situation and in order to find ways of still pressing Iran, and in fact satisfy the Zionist pressure groups inside America, the Americans are trying to use other methods by accepting the fact that the world is not ready to cooperate with them in that move. Thus, this certainly demonstrates the world's serious opposition to that American move concerning Iran and other countries.

[Correspondent] Clinton has recently called for the holding of bilateral talks with our country. How do you assess these contradictory stances adopted by U.S. officials?

[Zarif] The stance adopted by U.S. officials is possibly aimed at calming the climate which has been created in Europe against the illogical and unrealistic actions

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

taken by the Americans. The stance adopted by Mr. Clinton is not new. It in fact contradicts the actions which are being taken by America. Positive talks can only take place when there is a willingness to understand the realities. We have not seen any sign that the Americans are trying to understand the realities, particularly concerning the issues which relate to the Middle East, the Islamic Republic, and the Islamic revolution. In fact we see that the ignorance of American officials is increasing on a daily basis, and that they are becoming more and more alienated to the realities of the region.

[Correspondent] To bring the discussion to a conclusion, what have been the effects of the plans on the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Zarif] From an abstract of point of view, these plans don't aim at economic pressure but change of policy. Indeed, if economic actions are purely aimed at creating economic difficulties, these plans would mean total lack of policy. As far as economic pressures are concerned, the plans might cause some problems. But since the Islamic Republic of Iran is moving toward self-sufficiency and less dependence on foreign sources, the effects of the plans will be reduced. But the important thing is the aim of the plans. The aim of the plans is to create change in the behavior and the policies of some countries and to bring their policies closer to those imposing the sanctions. There is no doubt that here they have failed and they will continue to fail.

Iran: Paper Gives Reply to Clinton on 'Offer' of Talks

LD2706144496 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 24 Jun 96 pp 2, 13

[Unattributed comentary: "No Negotiations With the United States"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US President Bill Clinton is desperately sending conflicting signals to the Islamic Republic again. He told some Arab newspapers recently that he is ready to hold discussions with Tehran.

He reiterated that his policy is not to confront Tehran militarily, and specified that his intention is to somehow change the behaviour of the Iranian government and make it "more moderate."

Clinton's desperation is partly due to the total failure of his anti-Iran policy which has caused a serious rift between Washington and its European and other allies. In fact, the only countries that went along with Clinton's anti-Iran measure were the Zionist entity and Uzbekistan.

Other factors contributing to Clinton's desperation are the defeat of the US-backed Shim'on Peres in the recent Israeli elections and Clinton's own upcoming re-election campaign.

This week the US House of Representatives passed a bill which seeks to limit investment in oil and gas resources in Iran and punish companies which break the embargo.

And on Saturday [22 June] President Clinton, in an interview with a London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat expressed his desire to enter into negotations with the Islamic Republic and vowed that his administration will not embark on military adventurism against Iran.

President Clinton should remember that his predecessors in the White House, together with their closest allies, fought a war against the Islamic Republic along with their proxy, Saddam, for eight years. The result is well known and is proof of Iran's capability to defend every inch of its territory.

For Tehran, these contradictory and conflicting statements and measures from Washington have no meaning. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, commenting on the measure passed by the US House of Representatives, said it will "backfire and leave USA isolated even among its allies."

Iran's case is quite clear. President Clinton has to learn that we are living in a world which, as Velayati appropriately said, is one of "competition as far as economic affairs are concerned".

Naturally the oil companies, as in the past, will brush aside the illogical moves of the U.S. administration and will pursue their own interests. This is the reason why Iran has no problems and won't face any difficulties in the future in its oil sector.

As for Clinton's offer for 'comprehensive talks' with the Islamic Republic, he should be reminded that Iran's foreign policy, particularly towards the United States, is very clear and has been pronounced time and again in the past.

The Iranian nation has suffered greatly due to imperialist policies of the United States both before and after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

Negotiations between two adversaries are held when a favourable ground exists. At present, Iranians see no such pre-requisite. So there is not the slightest chance for negotiations with an oppressive government such as that of the United States.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Ayatollah Yazdi Explains Stance on UN Rulings

LD2806133596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0745 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the first sermon in the 28 June Friday Prayers Ceremony conducted by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of judiciary, at Tehran University campus]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

In this sermon I want to address an issue which I might not be able to tackle properly during a Friday prayer sermon. However, I want to discuss it very briefly because it is related to issues concerning the state, the political system and, by extension, the Friday prayers. Naturally, jurists, legal experts, and academics have carried out their own debates about this issue. We are ready to receive their views and benefit from them.

The issue here is that today's world is endowed with an international system through which countries communicate and trade with one another. [passage omitted]

Nonetheless, each country has its own rules of sovereignty. The debate, however, is about the interconnections between various countries' national sovereignties and international rules and conventions set by international bodies, in particular the United Nations, of which many countries are members, its Security Council, and its various departments and commissions.

Can a country be told that since you are a member of the United Nations, you are obliged to adhere to a given ratification by the Security Council, or the Human Rights Commission, or other commissions concerned with trade, labor, women, children, the environment, etc? That country may say that although I am a UN member, I have no obligation to carry out your decisions. The issue here is to what extent a country's national sovereignty can be flexible towards international bodies and their rules and conventions?

An example here might shed some light on the issue. For instance, our country has been a UN member since before the Islamic revolution and, therefore, it has certain obligations and has to adhere to certain international treaties and submit annual reports to certain commissions. However, given that after the revolution Iran confirmed its membership in the UN and its affiliate organizations, can one say that Islamic Iran must blindly follow a given ratification because it is a UN member? Can one say that you cannot go against what has been decided in this or that commission?

We can of course respond by saying that we have been, and still are, a member. But today we have an Islamic system which embodies certain laws and regulations which cannot be altered by any one. Nobody has the authority to change these laws.

We say that despite our membership, we cannot give in to your ratifications and decisions when they contravene Islam and its principles.

There is the question of a clash between international law and national sovereignty. It is an extensive debate on which many other issues are built and which have been discussed by experts. I just want to point to the things with which we are concerned. For instance, the [UN] Human Rights Commission studies and approves certain issues and these are approved by the General Assembly and members are obliged to respect them. But when it comes down to us, we might say that one of the articles contradicts Islam and is unacceptable. Even more important than the ratifications is the Human Rights Charter which is open to criticism and which we cannot totally accept. As you notice, there is the right of the sovereignty of Iran and the right of the international organizations and their affiliated commissions [in applying] the so-called international law.

I wish to point out that it is wrong when some people say or write, here and there, that we should respect the ratifications because we are members of these organizations, because we pay our membership, and because we enjoy the budget set aside for the members. Well, of course we acknowledge our membership. We respect these organizations, we pay our membership and we enjoy our rights whenever possible. But this does not mean that if a ratification is against the definite laws of Islam we are going to accept it just because it has been approved by the commission affiliated to an organization in which we are a member. This is not so. Islam is here and is sovereign. An Islamic system has been declared. Membership in the [international] organizations has been accepted but this does not mean that all ratifications are approved. [passage omitted]

Iran: Commentary Attacks British Support for Opposition, Bahrain

LD2706191696 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Jun 96 p 16

[Political commentary by the international politics department: "The Colonial Attitude"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the middle of last week, the English minister of state for foreign affairs [Jeremy Hanley] once again tried to attach the well-used label of support for terrorism to Iran.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Speaking in Manama, he tried to give some credence to the position adopted erroneously by his hosts who are part of a government which invariably welcomes foreign advisers.

A colonial attitude is one of the most incurable maladies. Aggression, divisive measures, bids to infiltrate and plunder other countries, discrimination, conspiracies, and so on, all make up the key features of the colonial attitude. Colonialism, in particular its old and longstanding exponent, owes its existence, directly or indirectly, to this attitude.

England, suffering from more of an inferiority complex than other old colonial powers, is trying hard to maintain its illegitimate status. This government, which always derives its strength at the expense of weakening others, has made the Persian Gulf and the Middle East the main focus of its policies of intervention.

For colonialist powers, in particular the old and ageing Britain, contradictions in what they say and what they actually do are very common indeed. Almost simultaneous with Jeremy Hanley's remarks in Manama, political officials in London permitted a number of terrorists living in England to hold a "meeting of opposition groups." In the meeting, which was held on 21 June, a number of decadent singers performed their trite songs and some renowned terrorists, whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent people, were present either as speakers or in the audience.

Both what the official representing England's foreign policy in the Persian Gulf said and what the officials of that country's Home Office did inside England in fact derive their inspiration from the same source.

Conspiracies and efforts to infiltrate and divide other nations are the primary objectives for colonialism. These objectives become clearer when viewed in juxtaposition with the policies of America and Zionist circles in the Middle East. The implementation of these policies requires puppets such as the Al Khalifah rulers in Manama, as well as disgraced hypocritical grouplets scattered across the terrorist-tolerating Western countries.

The English Foreign Office sings the tune of the despotic rulers of Bahrain at a time when the world's political and media circles — including many English media — believe that the current events in the island are rooted in domestic conditions, and say that efforts to blame the present problems on external factors are simply conspiracies aimed at the distortion of realities. A report in THE GUARDIAN is the most recent example of this type of approach.

On the other hand, London criticizes Tehran for allegedly supporting terrorism at a time when it is playing host to the most notorious terrorists in the world. Salman Rushdie is a religious terrorist. Without having any firm beliefs himself, he insults different religions while enjoying the protection of England's intelligence and security organs. His insults against Islam are unforgivable and the protection given to this apostate writer by London has caused the hatred of world Muslims.

Granting permission for activities by the monafeqin [hypocrites; Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] terrorist grouplet must be essentially evaluated within the same framework. Most political circles, even Westerners, are united in their belief that the grouplet has a terrorist nature and acknowledge its notorious record of violence and sabotage. In 1995 even the American State Department said that the group was a terrorist organization with an undemocratic structure which has caused the wrath of the Iranian nation.

England's support for such a group pursues the objective of gaining political advantage and formulating conspiratorial plans for achieving future influence. A government which itself supports — or even cooperates with — terrorists, has no right to accuse other governments of backing terrorism.

Iran: Daily Criticizes 'Extravagent' Behavior at Cairo Summit

LD2706113896 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — The English language daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" in its editorial on Thursday [27 June] commented on the news reports which occurred on the sidelines of the recent two-day Arab summit in Cairo, Egypt.

The editorial referred to a swimming pool which was hurriedly readied for a king at the summit venue and a suite which was redone to make a room for a sheikh's furniture especially flown from his country and also to an African leader's order asking a "drink" to be specifically flown from Paris as it was not available in Cairo.

"It should be said that most of these presidents, kings and emirs are Muslims and some of them even claim very sacred religious and social status-"khademul haramein" (custodians of the two holy shrines in Hejaz) descendants of Hashem, forefather of Prophet Mohammad (sawa)," said the editorial.

The daily questioned, are these extravagant lifestyles by those in power justified? Especially when there are millions of poor in their own region and millions more in the rest of the world who are dying of hunger, starvation and poverty.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The editorial believes that nobody wants to take notice of the poor. They have no place in the rich people's lives or concerns. The rich nations do not want to invest their resources on critical concerns of poor nations and the letter have no sufficient means to alleviate the sufferings of their have-nots and downtrodden.

This year is the international year for the eradication of poverty as decleared by UNESCO which is working to "promote education for all", the daily said, adding that it is the most "sensible" strategy to combat poverty.

The editorial came to the conclusion by saying that as long as the Midas mentality exisits in rulers and people in authority and they continue to overindulge themselves, there is not even a ray of hope for the poor.

Iran: Arabs Urged To Take Further Action in Wake of Cairo Summit

LD2706180296 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Cairo Summit: Timely But Not Enough"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Winding up on Sunday [23 June], the Arab summit held in Cairo called for the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem, the Western part of the al-Biqa' plain, South Lebanon and the Golan Heights. It also demanded the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Arabs should be patted on the back for taking a reasonable stand against the arch-enemy of the Muslim ummah, the Zionist regime.

The Cairo meeting should be viewed as a turning point in the history of Arab unity. But Arab unity in itself is not enough to fight the enemy, who is armed to teeth and supported and encouraged by the United States and certain other powers.

Such an enemy can be repelled only if all Muslims get united forming a single solid front. Hence, the next summit should be convened with the purpose of the Muslim countries forging a feasible strategy to restore the rights of the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians.

Solidarity and congruence among the Islamic nations can be achieved only if the Arab states realize that the USA is not their saviour. Unfortunate as it is, they have failed to grasp this vivid point as yet. In other words, they are mistaken if they believe the USA will shield them against threats posed by the Zionists.

In fact, Washington's approval of the offensives launched by the Zionist regime on South Lebanon should have made the Arab countries realize that the interests of Tel Aviv and Washington are intertwined and inseparable.

To make the case even worse, baseless charges of Bahrain against Iran and the unfounded claims of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to Iranian islands point out streaks of US influence on some of the participants in the summit.

In view of the Zionists' utter audacity, it is crystal clear that the Arab governments will not be able to restore their rights through merely issuing resolutions.

As the Cairo Summit's final statement stressed, the Arabs must closely follow further developments in Israel and the performance of Netanyahu's government. With the recent elections in Israel and the extremist Jews gaining power, the Arab countries are yet further required to be vigilant vis-a-vis the future trend of policies adopted by the Zionist regime.

As Netanyahu announced yesterday, the Zionist state will not withdraw its troops from the occupied territories; it will not recognise an independent Palestinian state and will not withdraw from the Golan Heights. Moreover, it will continue setting up more Jewish settlements.

It is urgent for all Arab and non-Arab Muslim countries to meet in the near future to express their unity and solidarity and explore ways to restore the glory and dignity of the Islamic ummah.

Iran: Official Views U.S. Attempts To Mediate in Afghanistan

LD2706125096 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 96 pp 1,14

[Unattributed report on interview with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia-Oceania affairs, on 23 June; place not given: "U.S. Trying To Establish Foothold in Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — "Washington's attempts to mediate among Afghan warring factions is not out of benevolence, (but) a reaction to Iran's successful mediation between the Afghan government and Hezb-e Eslami, (the party) of Golboddin Hekmatyar," the Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview yesterday.

Representatives of Afghanistan's major factions are to attend three days of hearings in the U.S. Congress this week. Organized by Republican Senator Hank Brown, the hearings begin Tuesday [25 June] and will be attended by leaders of the Taleban militia, a student reactionary group which swept across southern

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan in late 1994 and 1995 to reach Kabul's doorsteps. A deputy foreign minister of the Kabul government, a spokesman for exiled King Mohammad Zaher Shah, and envoys from other factions are also slated to attend.

"The United States has embarked on an effort to have a more active role in Afghanistan," Borujerdi said, "but we don't think they are really concerned with the misery of the Afghan people."

Moreover, now that the train of peace has begun to move with the mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the White House is trying to jump on the peace band-wagon, on the one hand, and undermine the peace process, on the other, Borujerdi said.

We call on all Afghan groups participating in the talks to be very cautious while discussing with the U.S. officials.

He said that history proves the United States has never looked with favour upon Islamic countries of the region but, on the contrary, has always tried to undermine the interests of the Muslim countries.

"Recent events in Lebanon showed that the United States is a staunch supporter of the enemies of Muslims," he said, adding that Washington cannot play a positive role in the war-torn country because the Afghans do not trust it.

He stressed that the last four years — since Kabul fell to the Mujahidin —have not seen any positive initiative on the part of the United States towards settling the crisis. "But, as soon as the Islamic Republic of Iran made a successful move towards reconciling the government and the Hezb-e Eslami, the United States steps into the bandwagon and tries to be in the picture. The main U.S. objective is to find a foothold in Afghanistan.

On whether the United States will be able to reduce sources of tension between the warring groups, Borujerdi said the reaction of the Afghan groups to Washington's invitation shows that they consider the move as interference in their internal affairs. The Afghan government's intended level of participation in the talks itself speaks of its official stand towards Washington's invitation.

"The Afghan groups will be in the talks in order to expound on their viewpoints. They are opposed to any pressure from the outside," he stressed.

On the U.S. proposal to slap an arms embargo on Afghanistan, Borujerdi opined that U.S. officials are aware of the fact that it is not possible to control Afghanistan's borders.

He said that the proposal calls for an explanation, saying arms smuggling is like drug smuggling. "(Just) as it is not possible to wipe out drug smuggling along the Afghan borders, likewise it is not possible to stop arms smuggling there (and) such a sanction, if imposed, will only boost the military stamina of the opposition." He said the Afghan government has opposed the suggestion and considers such a move as interference in its internal affairs.

He welcomed the alliance of Hezb-e Eslami and the government, saying it is the first step towards achieving comprehensive peace in Afghanistan.

A high ranking official delegation will go to Afghanistan to attend the swearing in ceremonies of the new government in Afghanistan, he said.

"The move can bring comprehensive peace provided other groups join efforts towards reaching a nationwide agreement," he added.

"In my recent visit to Afghanistan, I conferred with a number of Afghan groups. My assessment is that all Afghan leaders want peace," Borujerdi said.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its efforts at encouraging the Afghan leaders to forge new agreements similar to that concluded between President Rabbani and Hekmatyar.

We will continue our talks with the Taleban and encourage them to join peace talks, he said, adding, there is no military solution to the Afghan crisis.

Iran: Commentary Sees New Afghan Government as Having Scope

LD2606202496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Unattributed station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Afghan Hezb-e Eslami leader, Goldboddin Hekmatyar, was sworn in on 26 June, during special ceremonies, as the country's prime minister. The country's president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, a number of Afghan political officials, and representatives from some foreign countries and press circles were present in the ceremonies. News agencies attached great importance to the presence of these people and the supporters of coalition parties, especially the Jam'iyat-e Eslami-ye and Hezb-e Eslami parties in the swearing-in ceremonies in Kabul. Political observers have taken into account different aspects the possible aftermath of the coming to power of the new government could have over the crisis engulfing that country.

In view of internal matters, there is no doubt that the new coalition government, regarding its make up, consisting of main political and ethnic groups in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan, is a new phenomenon in the country, so much so that we can say that such a make up, should it prove to be able enough to establish peace and tranquillity in the country, will have the greatest legitimate social scope in the country's history. It is, possibly based on this very theory, that new Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has called his government a provisional one, with the main aim of holding general elections. Beyond a doubt, such an aim will only be realized when peace is established and opposition groups cooperate with the Afghan government.

To the same end, it can be presumed that reinforcing the central government with the formation of the new coalition is a ground-clearing move to establish peace in the country, meaning that the new government will have more might in countering problems, and thus be backed by the war-weary people of Afghanistan. It seems the faction of impartial parties will be absorbed in the new coalition government. Hence, political experts maintain that opposition groups will have no alternative but to reconsider the war strategy in the ongoing power struggle, especially when, in view of the four year-long power struggle in Afghanistan, a military attitude has proven to be in none of the factions' interests.

Hence, the future of the civil war in Afghanistan will have a direct link with the main opposition factions' approach, namely that of the Taleban militia and the National Movement of the North.

Iran: Turkish Rocket Attack Kills 6, Injures 15 in Border Areas

LD2806101896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of violation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's airspace by two helicopters of Turkey's Armed Forces, which fired several rockets killing six and injuring 15 inhabitants of our country's border areas, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish ambassador and strongly protested against this action and demanded a prompt explanation from the Turkish authorities.

The Turkish ambassador expressed regret for the incident and asked to be given an opportunity to obtain some information from his government to provide the necessary explanations to the Iranian authorities.

Iran: Kurds Attack Turkish Consulate in Orumiyeh, Burn Flags

TA2806121596 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1025 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 28 (AA) — Iranian citizen Kurdish demonstrators attacked Turkey's consulate in Orumiyeh in Iran on Thursday [27 June] and burned two Turkish flags during the demonstrations.

More than a thousand demonstrators shattered windows of the building in the western city of Orumiyeh and damaged a car outside, but nobody was hurt.

The Iranian citizen Kurds chanted slogans during the demonstration which lasted for two hours.

Iran: Paper—Pact With Israel Will Not Solve Turkey's Problems

LD2706165896 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Jun 96 p 8

[Unattributed political commentary: "Turkish-Israeli Military Pact"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the Western-supported secular leaders in Turkey get closer to the main enemy of Muslims, the Zionists regime, and implement Washington's dictated policies, they distance themselves further from their own people who want their Islamic country to be governed by an Islamic government.

Yet another victory for the pro-Islamic Refah Party was secured in the latest local by-elections on 2nd June attesting to the fact that the Turkish people dislike the ruling secular leaders. The voting, weeks after the announcement of the signing of a military cooperation pact between Turkey and Israel, was of extreme significance.

The Turkish people had already rejected the pact when Refah's leader, Necmettin Erbakan, said he would nullify the pact if his party formed a government.

The military act, signed in February, gives Israeli planes training rights in Turkish air space. Israel, reportedly, also has Turkish permission to conduct surveillance flights along the Syrian and Iranian borders.

The Zionist regime wants a kind of peace agreement with Syria that suits itself. And United States, hand in glove with the Zionist regime wants to consolidate its hegemony over more areas of the Middle East with the aim of weakening and isolating the Islamic government in Iran. To do this, Syria must be first brought into line and the military pact signed with Turkey helps the Americans and Zionists in their notorious aim.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

What has infuriated Muslims all over the world, including those in Turkey, is the treacherous role of the Western-backed secular government in Ankara against the interests of the Islamic world in general and Syria and Iran in particular. The secular Turkish leaders have also humiliated Turkey and its people by acting as American puppets in the region and stabbing Muslims in the back by signing a military pact with their number one enemy.

The Ankara government feels it can resist the trend of Islamization in Turkey by playing the role of a protege regime for the USA and Israel. And for that reason it shows its domestic opponents no mercy.

The Americans, to reciprocate the services of its protege, turns a blind eye to its gross human rights violations.

Mahmut Kacar, a post office worker, who has been sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment for just calling on President Demirel to "turn to God" should be happy that his sentence was light compared to the torture and death sentences meted out to many other opponents. Human rights organizations, too, rarely report the appalling treatment of opponents by the government.

The Ankara government, unable to deal with its Kurdish problem, is looking to the Zionist regime for help to crush the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party], instead of finding a political solution to this national problem.

Strategically speaking, Turkey, under Western-supported secularists, is involved in a US-orchestrated defence pact with the Zionist regime to silence the Islamization trend in Turkey, solve its internal problems and keep Turkey under open US influence and continue to deny this great Islamic country the right to an independent foreign policy. The ruling regime is also preventing the biggest part, Erbakan's Refah from forming a government and some reports also do not rule out a coup in the event of coming to power.

Anyhow, there is no doubt that the military pact is against the interests of the Islamic world and is particularly aimed at intimidating Iran and Syria. It allows Israeli aircraft to eavesdrop electronically on Iran's economic, military and industrial structures. And the pact proclaims to the world that Turkey supports US and Zionist geostrategic objectives against Muslims, especially the two Islamic countries of Iran and Syria.

All impartial observers agree that Turkey's problems will not be solved by its getting closer to the Zionist regime. The Refah party is extremely close to power, the majority of the Turkish people want an Islamic government with an independent foreign policy that maintains Turkish pride not humiliates it or stabs fellow Muslims in the back and the pact will not guarantee power seats for the secularists.

Iran: Egypt-Sudan Relations, 'Belated' Arab Summit Discussed

NC2606202096 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Jun 96 p 12

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced last week that Sudanese officials would be invited to the Cairo summit for the heads of Arab states to coordinate policy following the victory of the extremist right in occupied Palestine.

Egypt-Sudan relations became crisis-ridden following differences and clashes regarding the border region of Hala'ib on which both countries claim sovereignty, and Cairo's accusation of Khartoum's involvement in the abortive assassination attempt against Mubarak in Addis Ababa last year. Sudan has repeatedly asserted its willingness to resolve the border differences and has stressed that those accused of the attempt against Mubarak are not on Sudanese soil. Egypt continues to insist on its stance. [passage omitted]

An important point is the confusion in Mubarak's policies on Sudan, such that it generates doubts about whether Mubarak really believes in the sanctions he insisted on implementing. Or is it that, just as the Sudanese authorities insist, the covert hands of an even greater enemy are present?

While news sources insist that in conformity with Security Council sanctions, Egypt intends to expel three Sudanese diplomats, Mubarak has hinted at waiving differences to attain Arab unity against Israel.

While the Sudanese authorities welcomed the invitation to the Cairo session and announced that an act such as the expulsion of three diplomats from the country could not harm the wishes of the two sides to resolve the differences, there are hypotheses for Egypt's two-sided policy. Perhaps Mubarak intends to use the term "Arab union" in the face of the hostile stance of the newly elected prime minister of the Zionist regime. You can assume that Mubarak has so far been implementing dictated policies against Sudan and has now reached different conclusions by his own calculations.

Perhaps you might speculate that Mubarak has finally realized that the hostile policies and decisions adopted by Egypt cannot resolve the differences. [passage omitted]

Currently, in view of U.S. and Zionist regime excess in the region, the North African countries are being

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

compelled to adopt a coordinated and long-term stance. Only then can they have the upper hand. Hence, the belated Arab summit to coordinate policies — it should have been held years ago against the creeping and all-encompassing policy of the Zionist regime — can at least appraise the current situation more easily and with more open eyes.

Iran: Official on World Bank-Iranian Relations

NC2606175596 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 6

["Excerpts" of an interview with Mohmmad Khaza'i, Iran's representative to the World Bank, which was originally broadcast by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rasht; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [RESALAT] First of all, please speak about the formation of the World Bank, the objectives of the International Monetary Fund [IMF], and about the Islamic Republic of Iran's presence in both these organizations.

[Khaza'i] Generally speaking the World Bank, the IMF, and other parts affiliated with it, are known as the Bretton Woods organizations. These two international economic establishments were formed in about 1946, and the main duties of the IMF is to monitor the international monetary system.

The main objective behind the establishment of the World Bank at that time was "to assist in the reconstruction and development of countries that had been harmed by World War II." Of course, the circle extended later on, and the World Bank now has 177 members with only a couple of countries, and namely Cuba, not being members of this international organization.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was among the founders of the World Bank and it now enjoys a considerable share in it, so much so that our country's share is now about 1.6 percent which, in comparison to other countries, is a noteworthy percentage. I think that from among the 177 members, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks 12th in the organization, as far as shares and votes are concerned.

[RESALAT] Is there any connection between the number of votes and the extent of shares in the World Bank?

[Khaza'i] Yes. The number of votes depends on the volume of shares. Japan. with its economic strength, has about an 8 percent share. Therefore, the 1.6 percent share of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a considerable figure. Thus, our country enjoys a special place in the World Bank.

[RESALAT] Isn't the number of votes and shares an instrument in the hands of the economically powerful countries, such as America, to direct the World Bank toward their own political and economic interests?

[Khaza'i] This is precisely so. Of course, on the basis of the World Bank's Charter, the World Bank is an economic not a political organization. But the truth is that the World Bank and the IMF, and basically all international organizations and even the United Nations, have proven not to be creditable and are all political in nature. And with the pressures that the world powers, headed by America, inflict on these organizations, even if those organization's employees do not want to become involved in politics, they are pushed in this direction.

For example, America's share in the World Bank is 17 percent. Of course, it does not have a "veto right." But the method it uses is that in order to inflict pressures on the World Bank or to use the political-economic instruments that it has at its disposal or for "lobbying" purposes, once its shares are added to the shares of other countries, it can vote as it pleases.

One of the wrong methods which unfortunately governs the World Bank, and which was a code of behavior that has now become law, is that the president of the bank should be elected by the ministers of the member countries or the members of the so-called board of governors of the World Bank. But from the start, traditionally America has selected World Bank president. Of course, a so-called voting always takes place with the American president appointing someone as a candidate. This person is then introduced by the American representative at the World Bank, following which sham elections are held.

Looking back at the history of the presidents of the World Bank, we can see that America has never opposed his actions.

At the IMF, the custom is for its president to be a European. And within this context, the current IMF president who has been serving for several terms is French.

Therefore, we see the following global divisions that have been made in the World Bank and the IMF: the president of the IMF is European and the president of the World Bank is American. These two international economic organizations are ultimately political in nature and mean to achieve political ends.

[RESALAT] In view of the explanations that you have given and the performance of the World Bank, there are some concerns at home about the loans that this bank has extended or is to extend to our country, as well as on the way these loans are to be used. Since the loans that have been extended to other countries have been

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

coupled with directives on how to use them and these directives have often made countries more economically dependent, the outcome has not been favorable. What has the situation been like as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned until now and, generally speaking, during the past years what amount of loans, and under what conditions, have been extended to Iran by the World Bank? Also, what are the interest rates and repayment conditions on these loans?

[Khaza'i] You have asked several questions within one question, and I hope to be able to give answers to all of them. Before explaining about the loans from the World Bank and their methods of repayment, I agree with a large part of what you have said. But there is another issue here and that is what role should be played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in international organizations. Frankly speaking, most international organizations have political dependencies and we cannot find one international organization which is an independent and revolutionary organization in the way we want. Mostly these organizations have been created by the big powers. This is a fact. But in this world village and within the framework of the current world system, while one of the objectives of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been to isolate us because — after all — our country does have political, voting, and financial powers in international organizations, the question that rises is: Should the Islamic Republic of Iran be isolated? Should it be silent and cast in the shadow by these organizations, or should it be active in them on the basis of the Islamic and national duties that it has on its shoulders? The officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran believe that we should be active, even if it is limited to making our voices heard through our cries, because this has been the Islamic tactic throughout the history of Islam. Therefore, I think that no one wants the country to be inactive everywhere. In dividing the assistances that are extended to member countries or to applicants, we see that three methods are used:

1. The extension of technical information and views to countries.

2. Outlines known as structure adjustment plans for a country. The World Bank extends both loans and plans.

The mode of loan repayment holds that after a loan request by a member country, the World Bank carries out specialized studies and after various visits to the country, the loan is extended on the basis of the said country's economic potentials.

When the World Bank implements structural adjustment plans in countries and assists a country in doing so, it controls all issues. And it is even possible that the country in question may disagree with its views. But if it wants to receive a loan, it has no other alternative but to do as the World Bank experts tell it to do. It is not correct to write out the same or similar prescriptions for all countries.

3. The other sector of the World Bank's activities is the payment of loans for the implementation of some projects in the member countries. For example, a country that wants to build a dam or a factory requests a loan for the said project. This is very similar to the loan that is extended by the Credit Bank for the building of a house. And a loan is gradually extended while work is progressing.

Since my appointment as Iran's representative at the World Bank, and especially after the conclusion of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war when our country began to move toward reconstruction and reactivation on the international field, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never requested technical or financial loans from the World Bank to be used for "structural and economic adjustment plans." Therefore, I decisively say that during the past few years Iran has not received even one dollar from the World Bank as a loan, nor has it received one written instruction or a prescription from it. It has not received any type of assistance from the IMF. This is why I refute any reports or statements on the receipt of loans or of economic programs from the World Bank by Iran.

[RESALAT] Have you not consulted with the World Bank or the IMF on economic policies during the past few years?

[Khaza'i] There have been no official consultations between Iran and the IMF or the World Bank. Neither of these two organizations' officials have been officially invited to Iran, because to do so we would have to be following special programs. [passage omitted]

Anything that has happened in Iran concerning economic issues has involved our own economic experts, the government, and Majles proposals.

Some of our economic policies may be similar to what the World Bank says. For example, privatization is one field in which the World Bank is interested; an economic policy in recent years has been the privatization of industry. But this does not mean Iran is carrying out the World Bank's orders. It is like a prescription a doctor writes. One might write one prescription for one patient while another could write a similar one but with minor differences for another patient. Iran has not carried out any economic adjustment plans that have been formulated by the World Bank and the IMF, because our major officials disagree with requesting

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

assistance from these two organizations to implement structural and economic adjustment plans.

The Islamic Republic's financial link with the World Bank has been that of loans for five projects; our justification for receiving these loans is that our country is one of the major shareholders in the bank so why should it not use its rights, since a World Bank duty is to help countries harmed by war. On the basis of UN statistics, Iran suffered $100 billion dollars of damage in the imposed war, while domestic statistics say the figure is $1 trillion. Under such conditions the World Bank, an international organization that claims to help countries harmed by war, should help. Immediately after the Gilan and Zanjan quakes and the heavy damage they caused, we thought of using the "essential loan" extended by the World Bank for these regions. We received $250 million from the World Bank. America disagreed with this. Since America objected to every Iranian request for a loan, this was actually a political victory for Iran.

Loans are extended by installment, in that if, for example, the Housing Foundation wants to build houses and it needs to import a specific item, it should take bids and then choose the lowest, as approved by World Bank specialists. Then the Housing Foundation can order the item and the World Bank will pay the company. Everything is done in a precise and calculated manner.

The loans from the Housing Foundation to rebuild part of the quake-stricken area, from the Ministry of Health to install rural health stations, and from the Tehran Municipality to install a sewage system, or the building of the Qom gas-operated power plant, have not affected the country's economic programs. Another loan we received was used to prevent floods in Sistan va Baluchestan and to build flood barriers. This project has now been implemented and it has had great positive impact. In five years the World Bank has approved over five loans for Iran, amounting to about $850 million. This amount, as explained, was gained through difficult struggles with America. The amount was not so large. But we wanted to get the most we could out of the organization. Our votes allowed us to use it as a tribune.

The World Bank's board of directors discusses projects for $1 billion in loans for Mexico and approves the loan because Mexico is an American ally in NAFTA. And if larger loans are extended to Mexico, developments take place in northern Mexico that are to America's benefit. But when Iran is raised, we see intense pressure and confrontations. The interest rate system in the World Bank is that the Bank gets the money from the international markets and not from the member countries. For example, Iran has a $2.3-billion share in the World Bank. It has paid only 3 percent of it. And of this 3 percent, only part of it is paid in dollars or in gold. The rest is in the form of promissory notes from the Central Bank. So the money the World Bank furnishes from international markets because of its credibility comes with expenses and the average of the expenses is calculated. They call it the average charge for loans from international markets. The World Bank adds 5 percent banking charges to this figure (average expenses), which has been 7.5 percent thus far.

Since Iran cannot pay interest for loans from the World Bank, we prepared a report on this and officials exerted great efforts in this field. Finally the religious scholars stated that "in view of the system through which the World Bank has furnished the money and is paying it to Iran, we are actually paying charges to the World Bank. So the agreement the World Bank signs with Iran should be based on charges." Convincing World Bank officials to accept this activity was hard. But we tried for a long time and they were convinced that the text of the agreement with Iran on extending loans be based on this principle.

Because of its policies on Iran, America strongly confronted Iran at the World Bank in 1993 and insisted that the World Bank not extend any loans to Iran.

[RESALAT] Did it threaten World Bank officials?

[Khaza'i] Yes. In the past it opposed Iran too. But the other countries did not follow suit. It confronted Iran and threatened World Bank officials, saying: If you extend a loan to Iran, we will not pay our share.

This threat scared World Bank officials. This was natural, since World Bank officials are mostly Americans. As hard as they try to don an international mask, when it comes to such situations, with America the host country and master, they cannot take such threats lightly. Of course the nonpayment of America's share in the World Bank is not very effective because the Bank does not use many shares to furnish its monetary needs. As I said, only about 3 percent of the shares are used while the rest of the money is borrowed from international markets. These threats had no serious impact and we continued on our path in the World Bank. But America threatened the Bank again, saying that if it extended a loan to the Islamic Republic, America would not help the International Development Fund.

The International Development Fund extends loans to poor countries with a per capita income under about $580. Iran is not on this list. Repayment of such loans is 40 years. These loans are interest-free with only about 0.5 percent or less paid in charges.

The financial resources of this Fund come through so-called "assistance" by the rich countries, such that 20

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

percent of the Fund's financial resources are furnished by America and a major part by Japan, France, Saudi Arabia, China, and Switzerland. When America said it would not help it meant a sudden 20-percent drop in the Fund's financial resources. Regulations state that when America or another country does not pay its share, the rest bear the burden. The other countries can refuse to make up for America's share, in which case others suffer the consequences. Thus, the other members of this Fund faced a special situation. Over 70 countries that the Fund deems poor and eligible for loans — and on easy terms — felt they were the ones who were suffering because of the fight between America and Iran. These are economic weapons that have been very slyly prepared.

[RESALAT] They place those countries against Iran.

[Khaza'i] That is exactly what they did. By not extending loans to the poor countries they created a problem at the World Bank and in these countries. Nothing could be done because the threat had adopted serious dimensions, and this threat and former threats, as well as World Bank officials' dependence on America, almost severed loans to Iran, even including loans for two projects in Iran worth $300 million, for which studies had been carried out. A meeting of the World Bank's board of directors was suddenly halted.

America's intervention in blocking a loan to Iran and America's impudence in exploiting an international organization were so obvious that even the president and the other officials of the World Bank apologized and expressed their regrets to the Islamic Republic's officials each time they faced them.

Although America's pressure on Europe to sever relations with Iran is extreme, the Islamic Republic's relations with the other countries are much better than in the past. America has never been as hostile toward Iran as it is today. To put it simply, this hostility can be blamed on America losing hope that Iran will decline. It has realized that Iran is standing like a tree with its roots and branches growing daily. This is why America feels disappointed. America's tactics are mostly economic, because it has lost hope in every other field.

Thus I can say that since 1993 Iran has received no loans from the World Bank and that our relations with the World Bank were on the level a member country should enjoy. During this period — by resorting to specific methods —gratis loans were received from the World Bank through some channels. These loans ranged from $15,000 to $3 million. The money was spent in fields such as improving Tehran's environment, altering cars to use [natural] gas as fuel, conducting research work in some organizations, and so on.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Leghari States Nation 'Will Not Accept' Pressure To Sign CTBT

BK2706135096 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan is agreeable to the objectives of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] but will not accept any pressure for signing it. He was informally talking to newsmen after the inaugural session of the 21st summer college on physics and contemporary needs in Islamabad today. The president said we have our own concerns, which prevent us from signing the CTBT.

The president has called for the need to redefine our priorities in science and technology if we are to narrow the gap between us and the developed world. Speaking at the summer college, the president said our dependence on the developed world will continue to grow unless we check this trend. The president said despite having vision, we lack commitment toward science and technology.

[Begin President Leghari recording] There is a big mismatch between what the political and social, economic, educational leadership of Pakistan desires, what they want this country to become, and the efforts that they do and the resources that they allocate for the realization of that vision. [end recording]

The president said those science institutions should be closed, which have become liabilities and the resources should be diverted toward institutions, which are catering to the needs of the nation. He asked the scientists to enlighten the nation about priorities in the sector of science and technology. The college will devote one week to computer modeling and networking and another to advances in material sciences. Thirty-eight scientists and technologists from 18 countries are also taking part in the two-week college besides scientific professionals from Pakistan.

Pakistan: Islamabad Comments on Indian 'Procrastination' To Sign CTBT

BK2706140296 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Geneva, negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] are deadlocked with only two days left before the deadline set for an agreement. The delegates have been trying to settle the question of when the treaty becomes binding. Britain, Russia, China, and Pakistan say it should not come into

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

force until it has been signed by the five nuclear powers and the nuclear threshold states — India and Israel.

The CTBT talks foundered mainly due to India's refusal to sign the accord, arguing it was too biased in favor of the five declared nuclear powers—Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States. According to political observers, the Indian procrastination indicates its actual desire to join the nuclear club rather than elimination of nuclear arms on a global basis.

Pakistan: Foreign Minister Views Islamabad's Stand on CTBT

BK2806040096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty should be signed by all the nuclear powers and threshold nuclear states. In an interview in Islamabad, he said Pakistan would only sign the agreement if India did so. The foreign minister said Pakistan's nuclear program is peaceful, while India has made it military- oriented. This could be judged from its nuclear explosion in 1974 and the current race to deploy nuclear capable missiles.

Pakistan: Foreign Secretary for 'Zero Missile Zone' in South Asia

BK2806053096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, has said Pakistan wants to see South Asia as the zero missile zone and is ready to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty along with India. Addressing the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs in Karachi last evening, he said we have raised our voice against nuclear weapons but India has never responded positively.

Pakistan: Envoy to U.S. Reaffirms Support for Intra-Afghan Dialogue

BK2806042196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has reaffirmed its support for an intra Afghan dialogue that can lead to the formation of a broad-based representative government in Afghanistan. This was stated by Pakistan ambassador to the United States, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, at a three-day U.S. Senate hearing in Washington. The hearing has brought almost all factions of Afghanistan under one roof for the first time since they signed the 1993 Islamabad accord.

She said Pakistan is pursuing a policy of strict neutrality and has no favorites in Afghanistan. She said Pakistan believes that only the Afghans themselves can determine their political destiny. Calling for an end to fighting to create an environment for dialogue, the Pakistan ambassador expressed the hope that all factions in Afghanistan will cease military actions against one another. She also called for international arms embargo against Afghanistan which will eventually lead to an internationally monitored demilitarization of the country. Dr. Maleeha Lodhi said Pakistan for its part is ready to offer all assistance to realize these objectives.

Pakistan: Bhutto Promises To Deal With Terrorists With 'Iron Hand'

BK2706162796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A bomb blast at Faizabad in Rawalpindi this afternoon killed three people and caused injuries to several others. Our representative who visited the site of the blast said it occurred in a hotel adjacent to old jami' masjid [grand mosque], Faizabad, at about 1815 this evening. Two small hotels and two shops were destroyed. Hospital sources told our representative 35 injured persons were brought to Rawalpindi General Hospital and two of them were in serious condition.

The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, visited the site of the blast. The political secretary to the prime minister, Ms. Nahid Khan, immediately arrived at the site and is coordinating relief work on the instructions of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Police and local administration are clearing debris with the help of volunteers.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed deep shock and grief over the loss of valuable lives in a bomb blast at Faizabad, Rawalpindi. In a statement, the prime minister condemned in the strongest terms this dastardly act and expressed the resolve that the culprits involved in the blast would be arrested and punished. The prime minister reaffirmed that the harder the terrorists try to terrorize the people and the government, the harder will be the government's resolve to deal with them with an iron hand. The prime minister said such dastardly incidents will intimidate neither the government nor the people and there should be no mistaken doubt about it. The government would not compromise with the terrorists and their nefarious designs would be foiled. The prime minister directed provincial authorities to mobilize all resources to apprehend the culprits at all costs. She directed the provincial government to provide best possible medical aid to the injured. The prime minister prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and give courage and fortitude to the victims' families to bear this irreparable loss. She also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.